

Independent (“Just Right”) Reading Descriptions Level P

Characteristics of Level P Books

- Wide range of genre and forms
- In information texts, *texts with multiple topics and categories within them*; prior knowledge often required;
- In fiction texts, content *that goes well beyond readers' personal experiences and content knowledge*; deeper meanings applicable to important human problems & social issues; some more challenging themes (eg: war, the environment)
- Various ways of showing characters' attributes; multiple characters to understand; *factors related to their change are less explicit and obvious*; memorable characters have both good and bad traits that change over time
- Complex plots with numerous episodes & time passing; many stories have moral lessons close to the end of the story & some have parallel or circular plots
- *Some texts - abstract themes & lessons* requiring inferential thinking to derive; *many ideas and themes require an understanding of cultural diversity*
- *Texts with multiple points of view revealed through characters' behaviors*
- *Descriptive language (including setting) has details important to understand plot*
- *Extensive use of figurative language important to understand plot*
- *Settings are in times/places distant from students' experiences*
- Multisyllable words that are challenging to decode; words hyphenated across lines
- New vocabulary in fiction largely unexplained, while content-specific words introduced, explained, and illustrated in informational text
- Vocabulary words are used figuratively/to show an abstract idea and/or must be figured out from context in order to fully understand the story

Characteristics of Readers at Level P

- Can understand and process narratives with more elaborate plots and multiple characters that develop/change over time, though *many themes are unfamiliar*
- Reader will slow down to problem solve or search for information, then resume normal reading pace; will form implicit questions and search for answers
- Can read and understand *the connotative meaning of words, and when words are used figuratively*; *can add new and interesting words to his/her vocabulary*
- Can identify and use words with multiple meanings, or difficult proper nouns
- *Can infer characters' feelings/motivations, using cause/effect, dialogue, or what other characters say about them*; can manage multidimensional characters
- *Can take unfamiliar perspectives when interpreting about characters*
- *Can summarize longer narrative texts with multiple episodes, or categorize sets of related ideas in informational texts*
- *Can identify important ideas in a text and report them in an organized way*

Sample Texts - Level P

All-Star Examples: *Encyclopedia Brown, Fantastic Mr. Fox, George's Marvelous Medicine, Stone Fox, Thank You, Jackie Robinson, Riding Freedom, Time Warp Trio*

Books titles at my level include:

TITLE	AUTHOR
Captain Underpants (Series)	Pilkey, Dav
David Mortimore Baxter (series)	Tayleur, Karen
Bunnicula (series)	Howe, James
Felita	Mohr, Nicholasa
Jake Maddox (sports stories series)	Maddox, Jake
The Not-Just-Anybody Family	Byars, Betsy Cromer
Owls In The Family	Mowat, Farley
Trapped In Space	Johnson, David
Skinnybones	Park, Barbara
Tales from the Odyssey (series)	Osborne, Mary Pope
The Hundred Penny Box	Mathis, Sharon Bell
The Indian School	Whelan, Gloria
Time Warp Trio (Series)	Scieszka, Jon
Yang The Youngest And His Terrible Ear	Namioka, Lensey
A Girl Called Al	Greene, Constance C.
Fly Away Home	Bunting, Eve
Fourth Grade Is A Jinx	McKenna, Colleen O'Shaug
Gooseberry Park	Rylant, Cynthia
Knots On A Counting Rope	Martin, Jr., Bill
Martin's Mice	King-Smith, Dick
My Mother Got Married (And Other Disasters)	Park, Barbara
No Flying In The House	Brock, Betty
Oh, Brother	Wilson, Johnnie Marshall
Tar Beach	Ringgold, Faith
Thank You, Jackie Robinson	Cohen, Barbara
The Giraffe and The Pelly And Me	Dahl, Roald
The Lotus Seed	Garland, Sherry
Wayside School (series)	Sachar, Louis
Weslandia	Fleischman, Paul
Yang The Third And Her Impossible Family	Namioka, Lensey
Baseball, Snakes, And Summer Squash	Graves, Donald
DeShawn Days	Medina, Tony
Indian Shoes	Smith, Cynthia Leitich
Jake's 100th Day of School	Laminack, Lester
John, Paul, George And Ben	Smith, Lane
Joyful Noise: Poems For Two Voices	Fleischman, Paul
Mammalabilia	Florian, Douglas
Oliver's Game	Tavares, Matt
The Stinky Cheese Man And Other Fairly Stupid Tales	Scieszka, Jon
Who Stole "The Wizard Of Oz?"	Avi
Yeh-Shen	Louie, Ai-Ling

*Bold titles are Series books.

REMEMBER: You can sometimes find titles at your level or check the level of a book you already have on Scholastic's Book Wizard site. Look for the initials GRL (meaning Guided Reading Level) - this is the level we use at school. www.scholastic.com/bookwizard

Nancy Giansante is a librarian who keeps a leveled book list at her website: <http://home.comcast.net/~ngiansante>
This site is searchable by grade level suggestions, titles, and author names.