

# Independent (“Just Right”) Reading Descriptions Level Q

## Characteristics of Level Q Books

- Wide range of genre and forms - new genre: *more complex fantasy, science fiction, memoir, autobiography, historical fiction, short stories and diaries*
- In information texts, texts with multiple topics and categories within them; prior knowledge often required;
- Fiction texts *contain settings requiring knowledge of content (history, geography);* address important problems & social issues; some more challenging themes; *complex ideas on many different topics requiring real or vicarious (reading) experiences*
- 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
- *Some words that are seldom used in oral language and are difficult to decode*
- New vocabulary in fiction largely unexplained, *while content-specific words are mostly defined in text, illustrations or glossary*
- 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 Q

- Can understand and process complex narratives, though *many themes are unfamiliar*
- Will vary the pace of reading, as needed; will form questions & 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 process texts with dense print*
- *Can determine the meaning of academic and topic-related words in text*
- *Can solve complex multisyllable (3+) words (vowels, phonograms, affixes, etc)*
- 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 (*orally or in writing*), or categorize sets of related ideas in information texts; Can identify/report important ideas in an organized way

## Sample Texts - Level Q

**All-Star Examples:** *James and the Giant Peach*, *Peter and Fudge Books* (Blume), *Betsy-Tacy Series*, many *American Girl* books, *Little House on the Prairie* (series)

**Books titles at my level include:**

TITLE	AUTHOR
<b>Humphrey (series)</b>	Birney, Betty G.
Full Court Fever	Bowen, Fred
<b>Jake Maddox Impact Books (series-Paintball Blast, Go-Kart Rush)</b>	Maddox, Jake
Stranded	Mikaelsen, Ben
<b>Spiderwick Chronicles (series, books 1-3)</b>	DiTerlizzi, Tony & Black, Holly
Fight For Life: Maggie Vet Volunteer	Anderson, Laurie Halse
Nothing Ever Happens On 90th Street	Schotter, Roni
The Lucky Stone	Clifton, Lucille
The Other Side	Woodson, Jacqueline
The Toilet Paper Tigers	Korman, Gordon
The True Story Of The 3 Little Pigs	Scieszka, Jon
There's A Boy In The Girls' Bathroom	Sachar, Louis
There's An Owl In The Shower	George, Jean Craighead
You Be The Jury	Miller, Marvin
Drita, My Homegirl	Lombard, Jenny
Moon Runner	Marsden, Carolyn
Amazing But True Sports Stories	Hollander, Phyllis and Zander
Johnny Appleseed	Kellogg, Steven
Immigrant Kids	Freedman, Russell
The Snake Scientist	Montgomery, Sy
Twenty-One Elephants and Still Standing	Prince, April Jones
Castaways in Lilliput	Henry Winterfeld
Dragonling, The	Jackie Koller
Fairy Dust and the Quest for the Egg	Gail Carson Levin
Girl, the Dragon and the Wild Magic, The	David Lockett
James and the Giant Peach	Roald Dahl
Keisha The Fairy Snow Queen	Teresa Reed
Magician's Boy, The	Susan Cooper
Help! I'm a Prisoner in the Library	Eth Clifford
Secrets of Ms. Snickle's Class, The	Laurie Miller Hornik
<b>All About... Manatees, Sharks, Turtles</b>	Arnosky, Jim
<b>If You Lived... (series)</b>	McGovern, Levine, Moore, Kamma
Big Cats	Simon, Seymour
<b>Chet Gecko Mysteries (Series - Q and R)</b>	Hale, Bruce
<b>Animal Ark Series</b>	Baglio, Ben
<b>Matt Christopher Sports Books</b>	Christopher, Matt
<b>Sam Krupnik (series)</b>	Lowry, Lois

\*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](http://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.