

Independent (“Just Right”) Reading Descriptions Level X

Characteristics of Level X Books

- Wide range of complex genre & forms, incl. *parody, allegory and monologue; some sentences of 30 or more words*
- In information texts, texts with multiple topics/categories; prior knowledge often required
- Fiction texts have *elaborate plots and subplots*; complex themes revealing insight into the human condition & human problems (war, racism, social class barriers), present mature/adolescent social issues (growing up, sexuality, *abuse, poverty*)
- Interpretation of characters essential to understanding theme
- Many texts requiring knowledge of history, other heavy content load, or current events; critical thinking required to judge authenticity of texts
- Some switching through dialogue from setting to setting, often unsignaled
- Some with larger-than-life characters who represent struggle between good/evil; *fantasy texts may incorporate classical motifs, such as “the quest;”* multiple themes that may be understood in many layers; wide range of challenging themes building social awareness and revealing insights into the human condition
- Many stories have moral lessons & many have parallel or circular plots
- Texts with multiple points of view revealed through characters' behaviors
- Long strings of unassigned dialogue from which story action must be inferred; long stretches of descriptive language important to understanding setting, characters
- Extensive use of figurative language important to understand plot
- Words that are seldom used in oral language and are difficult to decode; long multisyllable words requiring attention to roots to read and understand
- Vocabulary words used figuratively or with unusual or hard-to-understand connotations; archaic words or non-English words not following conventional pronunciation patterns

Characteristics of Readers at Level X

- Can remember information in summary form over chapters, to understand larger themes
- Search for/use information from texts with many new/unfamiliar concepts; can organize important ideas in summary form & later use them as background knowledge
- Can adjust stance to better understand genre, like fantasy, or stance, like satire
- Notice & reflect on purpose of author's use of irony, satire, *parody and allegory and the resulting changes to surface meaning; can determine point of view or bias*
- Can explain how author supports points in a text; collects evidence for arguments
- Monitors understanding closely, searching within and outside the text, as needed
- Can process texts with dense print, complex layouts, & almost no illustrations
- Can solve complex multisyllable words (vowels, phonograms, affixes, word origins...)
- Can understand words with multiple meanings, difficult proper nouns, words from dialects/languages other than English; can understand meaning when satire is used
- Can infer about characters' traits, motivations, and changes; can manage multidimensional characters; use situations focusing on the problems of adolescents to develop new perspectives on own lives
- Integrates content knowledge while reading to consciously create new understandings
- Crafts and revises many predictions using knowledge of genre and evidence from the text

Sample Texts - Level X

All-Star Examples: *Ties that Bind, Ties that Break, Where the Red Fern Grows, The Egypt Game, Zlata's Diary: A Child's Life in Sarajevo*

Books titles at my level include:

TITLE	AUTHOR
Bartimaeus Trilogy - Ptolemy's Gate, Golem's Eye...	Stroud, Jonathan
Maximum Ride Novels Saving The World, Angel Experiment ...	Patterson, James
The Ruins of Gorlan	Flanagan, John
The Looking Glass Wars	Beddor, Frank
Homecoming (Trilogy)	Voight, Cynthia
Al Capone Does My Shirts	Choldenko, Gennifer
Feathers	Woodson, Jacqueline
Harlem Summer	Myers, Walter Dean
Homeless Bird	Whelan, Gloria
The Graveyard Book	Gaiman, Neil
The High King	Alexander, Lloyd
The Postcard	Abbot, Tony
A Cool Moonlight	Johnson, Angela
America	Frank, E. R.
Criss Cross	Perkins, Lynne Rae
Misfits	Howe, James
The Extraordinary Adventures of Alfred Kropp	Yancey, Rick
Can We Save Them?	Dobson, David
Japan: The People	Kalman, Bobbie
Artemis Fowl Series	Colfer, Eoin
Dark is Rising Series - Greenwich, Over Sea Under Stone...	Cooper, Susan
Lionboy Trilogy	Corder, Zizou
The Final Warning	Patterson, James
Peter And The Starcatchers Series	Barry, Dave & Ridley Pearson
Pit Dragon Chronicles Series	Yolen, Jane
The Burning Bridge	Flanagan, John
High Rhulain	Jacques, Brian
Queste	Sage, Angie
The Everworld Series (Mystify the Magician)	Applegate, K.A.
Kingdom Of The Golden Dragon	Allende, Isabel
The Little Prince	De Saint-Exupery, Antoine
The Hunting of the Last Dragon	Jordan, Sherryl
The Last Of The Really Great Whangdoodles	Edwards, Julie Andrews
The Realms Of The Gods	Pierce, Tamora
Out Of The Dust	Hesse, Karen
Let The Circle Be Unbroken	Taylor, Mildred D.
Letters From A Slave Girl: The Story Of Harriet Jacobs	Lyons, Mary E.
River Between Us	Peck, Richard
Dawn Of Fear	Cooper, Susan
Children Of The Wild West/Cowboys Of The Wild West/Freedom Walkers	Freedman, Russell
Growing Up In Coal Country	Bartoletti, Susan C.
Gorilla Doctors: Saving Endangered Great Apes	Turner, Pamela S.
Oh, Rats! The Story Of Rats And People	Marrin, Albert

*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.