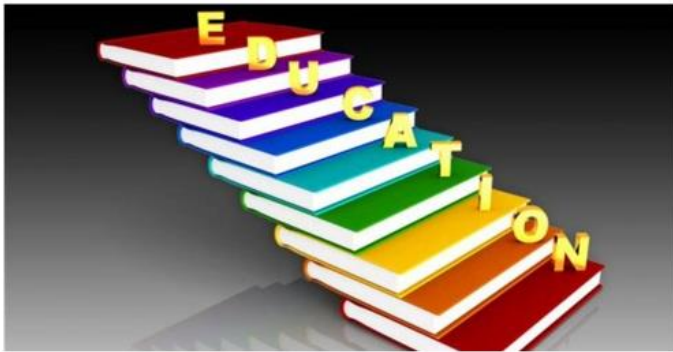


Your Child's Reading Level: Values and Pitfalls



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Bryan + College Station Library System



Reading levels are meant to challenge your child while teaching them new words.

Reading scores allow children to choose their own books to read, rather than having one assigned to them.

This makes reading a much more enjoyable experience as they can choose books that are interesting to them.

Scores help your child choose books at an appropriate readability level that are challenging without being frustrating.



But there are also pitfalls to using reading levels

- Reading only on one level can limit reading for fun and personal interest
- Forced reading of a level can create reluctant readers
- Leveled-reading only can appear to be “work” rather than “pleasure” for a child
- Levels can be seen as a failure or shameful if a child is well below peers



Schools follow many different types of reading scores to place your child at a reading level. Sometimes these test scores can be difficult to understand.



Accelerated Reader

- Your child's score can be determined at school with standardized testing such as the STAR test
- STAR test results will give a level where your child is probably capable of reading successfully
- This level is called Zone of Proximal Development or ZPD
- Then they match the ZPD with an Accelerated Reader level.

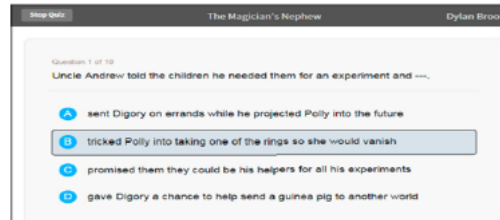
Grade-Equivalent Score	Suggested ZPD	Pt
1.0	1.0 - 2.0	
1.5	1.5 - 2.5	
2.0	2.0 - 3.0	
2.5	2.3 - 3.3	
3.0	2.6 - 3.6	
3.5	2.8 - 4.0	
4.0	3.0 - 4.5	
4.5	3.2 - 5.0	
5.0	3.4 - 5.4	
5.5	3.7 - 5.7	
6.0	4.0 - 6.1	
6.5	4.2 - 6.5	
7.0	4.3 - 7.0	
7.5	4.4 - 7.5	
8.0	4.5 - 8.0	
9.0	4.6 - 9.0	
10.0	4.7 - 10.0	
11.0	4.8 - 11.0	
12.0	4.9 - 12.0	

Accelerated Reader Scoring

- Grade Level AR is a measure of where your child is reading proficiently.
- “Proficiently” means that when given a test on what they read, they can answer 85% of the questions correctly

Grade Level AR	What it means: Your child is probably capable of correctly answering 85% or more questions about a book that was determined by the Accelerated Reader site to be on a specific grade year and month level
.01 - .05	Beginning reading
.05- 1	Kindergarten/Beginning
1.2	First grade 2 nd month
1.6	First grade 6 th month
2.3	Second grade 3 rd month
3.5	Third grade 5 th month

- When your child finishes a book, your child can take a short quiz on the computer.
- Passing the quiz is an indication that your child understood what was read.
- AR results help your child set goals and direct ongoing reading practice.
- Schools have access to these tests. Parents can either pay for the tests or do the sample tests with their child.



If you know your child’s reading level, you can go to <http://www.arbookfind.com/> to find out the level of your child’s chosen book

Put the title into the search bar and the AR level will come up

Quick Search Advanced Search Collections Textbooks

Book Details Back to Results Print Previous Title Next Title

James and the Giant Peach
Dahl, Roald
AR Quiz No. 232 EN

Wonderful adventures abound after James escapes from his fearsome aunts by rolling away inside a giant peach.

AR Quiz Availability:
Reading Practice, Literacy Skills, Vocabulary Practice

ATOS Book Level: 4.8
Interest Level: Middle Grades (MG 4-8)
AR Points: 4.0
Rating: ★★★★★
Word Count: 23843
Fiction/Nonfiction: Fiction

Topic - Subtopic: Award Winners-ALA Notable/Best Books; Fantasy/Imagination-Misc./Other; Recommended Reading-California Recommended Lit., English, 3-5

Series:

Your child can also take quizzes to check on their comprehension of the book on the site

RENAISSANCE

Products Solutions Information Support

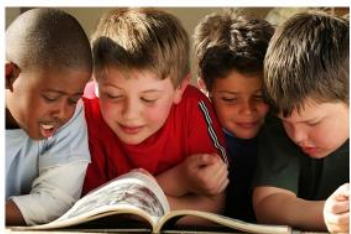
Reading Practice Quizzes
Reading Practice Quizzes ask questions that measure a student's comprehension over fiction and non-fiction books.
Of Mice and Men Tom Sawyer
Howdy for Baby Bear

Quizzes for Early Readers
Three-Question Reading Practice Quizzes are designed to help measure comprehension of short early-reader titles. Each title also has an accompanying Recorded Voice Quiz.
Beak and the Lost Teddy Bear There is a Bird on Your Head

Recorded Voice Quizzes
Recorded Voice Quizzes allow beginning readers and/or ELLs to take quizzes on their own because they include professionally narrated audio. Available in English and Spanish.
Clifford's First Christmas

But remember.....

Let your child also read books for fun at any level to make sure they don’t always see reading as work.



What is a Lexile Score?

The Lexile Framework was developed by MetaMetrics®, an educational assessment and research team, funded originally by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development.

A school either gives the student a Scholastic Reading Inventory Test (SRI) or a Lexile score is determined from state or local standardized testing such as STAR.

The Lexile Framework is designed to match your child's reading ability with a book's readability



- But it is not the only consideration when selecting a book.
- Your child's interests, your opinion on what constitutes age-appropriate material, and instructional goals are also important in managing your child's reading.
- It is also important to remember that your child's Lexile measure is not a measure of his or her intelligence.

Reading Level Correlation Chart
With AR Color Coding for College Hills Library

Accelerated Reader ATOS Levels	Fountas & Pinnell Guided Reading Levels (GRL)	
0.2-0.4	A	This chart provides approximate correlations for the two most common reading level scales and may help you identify a "just right" book.
	B	
0.5-0.6	C	
0.6-0.9	D	
	E	
0.7-0.9	E	
	F	
1.0-1.2	F	
	G	
1.3-1.5	G	
	H	
1.6-1.9	I	
2.0-2.4	I	
	J	
2.5-2.9	K	This chart was adapted from information found on Scholastic's Teacher Book Wizard website and based on an ATOS Conversion Chart found in the June 2011 Report from Renaissance Learning entitled "Matching Books to Students".
	L	
3.0-3.4	M	
3.5-3.9	N	
	O	
4.0-4.4	P	
	Q	
4.5-4.9	R	
	S	
5.0-5.4	T	
	U	
5.5-5.9	V	
6.0-6.9	W,X,Y,Z	

Lexile Reading Levels



Matching Scores to Grades

- To more easily remember how Lexile scores match to grade levels, consult the list below:
- Grade 3 = 300 + 500
- Grade 4 = 400 + 500
- Grade 5 = 500 + 500
- Grade 6 = 600 + 500
- Grade 7 = 700 + 500
- Grade 8 = 800 + 500
- Grade 9 = 900 + 500
- Grade 10 = 1000 + 500
- The same memory device can be used for the remaining grades.

Lexile Score Table from www.lexile.com

Age	School Year	Typical Lexile Level
7	3	300-800
8	4	400-900
9	5	500-1000
10	6	600-1100
11	7	700-1200
12	8	800-1300
13	9	900-1400
14	10	1000-1700
15	11	1100-1700
16	12	1200-1700

Source: Lexile.com

Librarians teach parents the 5 finger rule

- Find a book about your child's level.
- Have your child read out loud the page with the most words.
- Each time your child hesitates, falters, or does not know a word, count it on your fingers.
- If they finished the page without any struggles – the book is too easy – go a level higher
- If they struggled more than 5 times – the book is too hard – go a level lower
- You want them to struggle with 2-4 words per page which helps them learn new words.
- Don't count names of people or the same word over and over.

The Five Finger Rule

Step 1: Choose a book you want to read.
 Step 2: Open the book to the middle.
 Step 3: Read the entire page.
 Step 4: For every word that you don't know or have trouble sounding out, put up a Finger as you read.

0-1 Fingers: Easy Book
 2-3 Fingers: Just Right
 4 Fingers: Challenging
 5+ Fingers: Too Hard

Local CSISD Librarian Sally Smith devised a correlation between the color charts used in some CSISD schools, with AR levels, and with letter levels of the Fountas & Pinnell Guided Reading Chart

Other Reading Scores

Local school libraries may use a color code system rather than a numbered score system. They may use AR, Fountas & Pinnell, or Lexile for their color coding, but the colors help the child choose an appropriate level book.

If your child tells you they are reading blue books at school, they are reading at an AR level around 2.5 Fountas & Pinnell score L, and a Lexile score around 500.

We have a correlation chart at the Youth Services desk at the Larry J. Ringer library in case you want to find the level that matches with the child's reading level at school.

"I had a little girl just **burst into tears** once when I told her *The Last Olympian* had a score of 620L; she had to have books greater than 700 or her teacher **wouldn't count them at all.**"

This can also happen when too much emphasis is placed on level rather than interest and fun

Everything in moderation, including moderation.

Oscar Wilde

Guided Reading/Lexile Conversion Table

Grade Level AR	Fountas Pinnell Guided Reading	Lexile	Reading Recovery	DRA	NYRP Color Codes	Books
K	A	-	A,B,1	A,1	Yellow	A Birthday Cake (Cowley)
-	B	-	2	2	Yellow	I Can Write (Williams)
1	C	-	3,4	3	Orange	Cat on the Mat (Wildsmith)
-	D	100	5,6	4	Orange	Rain (Kaplan)
-	E	-	7,8	6-8	Green	Fox on the Box (Gregorich)
-	F	200	9,10	10	Red	It Looked Like Split Milk (Shaw)
-	G	-	11,12	12	Red	I Like Books (Browne)
-	H	300	13,14	14	Black	Mrs. Wishy Washy (Cowley)
-	I	-	15,16	16	Black	Rosie's Walk (Hutchins)
2	J	400	17,18	18	White	The Carrot Seed (Krauss)
-	K	-	19,20	20	White	Cookie's Week (Ward)
-	L	500	-	24	Blue	George Shrinks (Joyce)
-	M	-	-	28	Double Yellow	Goodnight Moon (Brown)
3	N	600	-	30	Double Orange	Hattie and the Fox (Fox)
-	O	-	22	34	Double Orange	Danny and the Dinosaur (Huff)
-	P	-	-	38	Double Green	Henry and Mudge (Rylant)
4	Q	700	24	-	Double Green	Nate the Great (Sharmat)
-	R	-	-	40	Double Red	Meet M&M (Ross)
-	S	-	26	-	Double Red	Horrible Harry (Kline)
-	T	800	-	44	Double Black	Pinky and Rex (Howe)
5	U	-	28	44	Double Black	Arthur Series (Mac Brown)
-	V	-	-	-	Double Black	Amber Brown (Danziger)
-	W	900	-	-	Purple	Ramona Quimby, Age 8 (Cleary)
6	X	-	30	-	Purple	James and the Giant Peach (Dahl)
-	Y	-	-	-	Purple	Fudge-a-mania (Blume)
7+	Z	1000	32,34	-	Neon Green	Shiloh (Naylor)
						The Great Gilly Hopkins (Paterson)
						Bridge to Terabithia (Paterson)
						Baby (MacLachlan)
						Missing May (Rylant)
						Where the Red Fern Grows (Rawls)
						A Day No Pigs Would Die (Peck)
						Scorpions (Myers)

When Standardized Scores Play a Negative Role in Reading

Sometimes schools recognize students who earn the most AR points. It's true that a student who has earned a large number of points has done quite a bit of reading, and that's good. **But when schools focus primarily on points a couple of things tend to happen:**

- **Students choose inappropriate books.** In their zeal to earn points and rewards, able readers read dozens of easy low-point books; or they choose high-point books that are too difficult. Students then lose sight of the primary goal, which is to read interesting books at the level of difficulty that is right for each of them as individuals.
- When all students pursue the same goal—to earn the most **points**—**less skilled readers are handicapped.** Since only a few students "win," those who feel they can never win give up.
- **Students cheat.** To try to earn more points, they take quizzes without reading books, and they share answers.

So use level methods to help you find what will challenge your child while helping them succeed at reading.....

And.....

Let them also have fun picking what interests them.

Remember

