

Independent (“Just Right”) Reading Descriptions Level M

Characteristics of Level M Books

- Informational texts, simple fantasy, realistic fiction, traditional literature (folktales, legends, tall tales), simple mysteries, biographies, *more graphic texts; hybrid texts with more than one genre* (60-100 pages); *some sentences with 15 or more words*
- *Most of the content carried by print*, rather than pictures
- Some *abstract themes & lessons* requiring *inferential thinking* to derive
- Texts with multiple points of view revealed through characters’ behaviors
- *Complex plots* with numerous episodes and time passing
- *Multiple characters (some complex & memorable) to understand and notice how they develop and change*
- *Some technical content is challenging, not typically known*
- Figurative and descriptive language; setting important to understand plot
- Multisyllable words that are challenging to take apart or decode
- New vocabulary in fiction largely unexplained, while content-specific words introduced, explained, and illustrated in informational text

Characteristics of Readers at Level M

- Know the characteristics of a *range of genres*
- *Developing preferences* for specific forms of reading (mysteries, biographies)
- Can understand and process narratives with *more elaborate plots and multiple characters* that develop and change over time
- Able to identify and use underlying *organizational structures* (description, compare and contrast, problem and solution, cause and effect) to help navigate through text
- Word solving is smooth and automatic with both oral and silent reading
- Can read and understand descriptive words, some complex content-specific words, and some technical words

Sample Texts - Level M

All-Star Examples: *The Magic Tree House (series)*, *Pee Wee Scouts (series)*, *My Father's Dragon (trilogy)*, *Riverside Kids (series)*, *Monty (series)* Molly's Pilgrim, Young Matt Christopher books

Books titles at my level include:

TITLE	AUTHOR
Hey L'il D! Series	Lanier, Bob and Goodyear, Heather
Stink	McDonald, Megan
<i>Goldilocks And The Three Bears</i>	Marshall, James
<i>Jingle Dancer</i>	Smith, Cynthia Leitich
<i>Players In Pigtails</i>	Corey, Shana
<i>Selavi, That Is Life: A Haitian Story of Hope</i>	Youme Landowne
<i>Stone Soup</i>	Forest, Heather
<i>Thank You, Mr. Falker</i>	Polacco, Patricia
<i>Third Grade Is Terrible</i>	Baker, Barbara
<i>Abe Lincoln's Hat</i>	Brenner, Martha
<i>Buddy, The First Seeing Eye Dog</i>	Moore, Eva
<i>Twisters!</i>	Hayden, Kate
<i>Fireboat: The Heroic Adventures Of The John J. Harvey</i>	Kalman, Maira
World's Biggest Series	Goldish, Meish
<i>Great White Sharks</i>	Markle, Sandra
Andy Russell/Andy and Tamika	Adler, David
Jigsaw Jones	Preller, James
Nancy Drew Notebooks	Keene, Carolyn
<i>Dinosaurs!, From Seed to Plant</i>	Gibbons, Gail
<i>Animal Babies</i>	Squire, Ann O.
<i>Ice Hockey</i>	Ditchfield, Christin
Color Fairies	Meadows, Daisy
Unicorn's Secret	Duey, Kathleen
<i>Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs</i>	Barrett, Judi
<i>Invisible in the Third Grade</i>	Cuyler, Margery
<i>Stuart Goes to School/Stuart's Cape</i>	Pennypacker, Sara
<i>Wings</i>	Myers, Christopher
<i>Jumanji</i>	Van Allsburg, Chris
<i>The Amazing Bone</i>	Steig, William
<i>Princess Furball</i>	Huck, Charlotte
<i>The Empty Pot</i>	Demi
<i>Brother Eagle, Sister Sky: A Message from Chief Seattle</i>	Chief Seattle
<i>Too Many Tamales</i>	Soto, Gary
<i>When This World Was New</i>	Figueredo, D.H.
<i>Abuela's Weave</i>	Castaneda, Omar
<i>Diego</i>	Winter, Jonah
<i>Erandi's Braids</i>	Madrigal, Antonio H.
<i>First Day In Grapes</i>	Perez, L. King
<i>Frida</i>	Winter, Jonah
<i>Gracias, The Thanksgiving Turkey</i>	Cowley, Joy
<i>My Mexico/Mexico Mio</i>	Johnston, Tony
<i>The Rainbow Tulip</i>	Mora, Pat

*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.