

Independent (“Just Right”) Reading Descriptions

Level N

Characteristics of Level N Books

- Informational texts, simple fantasy, realistic fiction, traditional literature, biographies, simple mysteries, *historical fiction*
- Most content in print, not pictures
- In information texts, a presentation of *multiple topics that represent subtopics of a larger topic or theme; prior knowledge often required*
- In fiction texts, content requiring the reader to take *perspectives of diverse cultures*, or bring cultural knowledge to understanding; *deeper meanings applicable to important human problems and social issues*
- Various ways of showing characters' attributes (description, dialogue, thoughts, others' perspectives); *multiple characters to understand, but factors related to their change are explicit and obvious*
- Complex plots with numerous episodes and time passing
- A few abstract themes & lessons requiring inferential thinking to derive
- *Figurative/descriptive language & setting are important to understand plot*
- Variety in sentence length and complexity
- Multisyllable words that are challenging to take apart or decode; *words hyphenated across lines*
- Words with prefixes and suffixes; *longer descriptive words*
- 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 N

- Know the characteristics of and can process the full 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/change over time, though some themes are unfamiliar*
- 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 oral and silent reading
- Reader will slow down to problem solve or search for information, then resume normal reading pace
- Most word solving is unconscious and automatic; little overt problem solving needed
- *Can read and understand descriptive words, some complex content-specific words, some technical words, and some difficult multisyllable proper nouns*

Sample Texts - Level N

All-Star Examples: *Gooney Bird Greene*, *The Enormous Crocodile*, *The Magic Finger*, *Julian* (series - Huey and Gloria), *Amber Brown* (series), *Something Queer* (series)

Books titles at my level include:

TITLE	AUTHOR
Be A Perfect Person In Just Three Days!	Manes, Stephen
Donavan's Word Jar	DeGross, Monalisa
Stanley And The Magic Lamp	Brown, Jeff
Herbie Jones	Kline, Suzy
Melvin Beederman, Superhero	Trine, Greg
Don't Sit On My Lunch	Klein, Abby
Elisa In The Middle	Hurwitz, Johanna
Shoeshine Girl	Bulla, Clyde Robert
The Chocolate Touch	Catling, Patrick Skene
The Year Of The Panda	Schlein, Miriam
Why Mosquitoes Buzz In People's Ears	Aardema, Verna
Zack Files	Greenburg, Dan
Chicken Sunday	Polacco, Patricia
Fables	Lobel, Arnold
Gadget War	Duffey, Betsy
Hey, New Kid!	Duffey, Betsy
I Was A Third Grade Science Project	Auch, Mary Jane
Julius, The Baby Of The World/ Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse	Henkes, Kevin
Key To The Treasure	Parish, Peggy
Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters	Steptoe, John
My Name Is Maria Isabel	Ada, Alma Flor
School's Out	Hurwitz, Johanna
The Boy Who Ate Dog Biscuits	Sachs, Betsy
The Enormous Crocodile (Chapter Book)/ The Magic Finger	Dahl, Roald
The Math Wiz	Duffey, Betsy
Keepers	Watts, Jeri Hanel
Meet Danitra Brown	Grimes, Nikki
Ruby Lu, Brave And True	Look, Lenore
Sylvester And The Magic Pebble	Steig, William
A to Z Mysteries (Series)	Roy, Ron
Capital Mysteries (Series)	Roy, Ron
Pompeii... Buried Alive!	Kunhardt, Edith
The Popcorn Book	DePaola, Tomie
Natural Disasters	Boskey, Madeline
The Cod's Tale	Kurlansky, Mark
The Story Of Money/ The Story Of The Statue Of Liberty	Maestro, Betsy
Trapped By The Ice: Shackleton's Amazing Antarctic Adventure	McCurdy, Michael

*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.