

Independent (“Just Right”) Reading Descriptions

Level T

Characteristics of Level T Books

- Wide range of genre and forms - including historical fiction & short stories - some collections that have interrelated themes; *some myths and legends; some sentences have more than 20 words*
- In information texts, texts with multiple topics and categories within them; prior knowledge often required
- Fiction texts address important problems, social issues, challenging themes; *highly literary texts containing themes presenting mature issues and problems in society (eg: racism) and human problems (war, hardship, economic issues); complex plots with subplots and/or multiple storylines; content appealing to preadolescents; complex fantasy showing good vs. evil; some obvious symbolism*
- Various ways of showing characters' attributes; multiple characters to understand; memorable characters have both good and bad traits that change over time; *themes that evoke alternative interpretations*
- 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
- 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 T

- Can remember information in summary form over chapters, a series of short stories, or sequels in order to understand larger themes (& report in organized way)
- Make connections *among* characters in different texts (setting, problem, person)
- Can explain how author supports points in a text; *collects evidence for arguments*
- Can express changes in ideas or perspective after and while reading
- Will vary the pace of reading, as needed; will form questions & search for answers
- Can process texts with dense print *and a variety of complex layouts*
- Can solve complex multisyllable words (vowels, phonograms, affixes, *word origins...*)
- Can understand words with multiple meanings, difficult proper nouns, *can derive meaning from words from dialects and languages other than English*
- Can infer characters' feelings/motivations, using cause/effect, dialogue, or what other characters say about them; can manage multidimensional characters
- *Integrates content knowledge while reading to consciously create new understandings*

Sample Texts - Level T

All-Star Examples: Abel's Island, The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe, Bridge to Terabithia, Sounder, Sing Down the Moon, Where the Mountain Meets the Moon

Books titles at my level include:

TITLE	AUTHOR
Baby	MacLachlan, Patricia
Jackie And Me, Shoeless Joe and Me, Honus and Me...	Gutman, Dan
Deltora Quest (series); Rowan of Rin (series)	Rodda, Emily
Diary Of A Wimpy Kid	Kinney, Jeff
Emily Windsnap	Kessler, Liz
Fair Weather	Peck, Richard
Black Beauty (Graphic Adaptation)	Sewell, Anna
Harriet The Spy	Fitzhugh, Louise
Inkspell (trilogy)	Funke, Cornelia
Lupita Manana	Beatty, Patricia
Nory Ryan's Song (trilogy)	Giff, Patricia Reilly
Sammy Keyes	Van Draanen, Wendelin
Surviving The Applewhites	Tolan, Stephanie S.
The Barn/Something Upstairs/Bright Shadow	Avi
The Great Brain	Fitzgerald, John D.
The Sign Of The Beaver	Speare, Elizabeth G.
A Week In The Woods	Clements, Andrew
An Angel For Solomon Singer	Rylant, Cynthia
Becoming Joe DiMaggio	Testa, Maria
Cousins	Hamilton, Virginia
Love That Dog/Hate That Cat/Replay	Creech, Sharon
Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret/Blubber/Then Again, Maybe I Won't	Blume, Judy
Here's To You, Rachel Robinson/Not the End of the World/Just As Long As ...	Blume, Judy
Joey Pigza Swallowed The Key	Gantos, Jack
Leon's Story	Tillage, Leon Walter
My Louisiana Sky	Holt, Kimberly Willis
Sees Behind Trees	Dorris, Michael
Six Innings: A Game in the Life	Preller, James
The Kid Who Ran For President	Gutman, Dan
The Night Journey	Lasky, Kathryn
The Rifle/The Schernoff Discoveries/Tracker/The Time Hackers	Paulsen, Gary
The Secret Life Of Amanda K. Woods	Cameron, Ann
The Toothpaste Millionaire	Merrill, Jean
What Jamie Saw	Coman, Carolyn
Amalee	Williams, Dar
Molly Moon (series)	Byng, Georgia
Kids At Work: Lewis Hine And The Crusade Against Child Labor	Freedman, Russell
Shh! We're Writing The Constitution	Fritz, Jean
Walk In The Tundra	Johnson, Rebecca
George Vs. George: The American Revolution As Seen From Both Sides	Schanzer, Rosalyn
Chasing Vermeer/The Wright 3	Balliett, Blue

*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.