

Independent (“Just Right”) Reading Descriptions Level V

Characteristics of Level V Books

- Wide range of genre & forms, *incl. satire*; some sentences have more than 20 words
- In information texts, texts with multiple topics and categories within them; prior knowledge often required; variety of structures combined in complex ways
- Fiction texts address important problems, social issues, challenging themes, highly literary texts containing themes presenting mature issues and problems in society; complex plots; content appealing to preadolescents *and adolescents*
- *Interpretation of characters essential to understanding theme*
- *Many texts requiring knowledge of history or other heavy content load; critical thinking required to judge authenticity of texts*
- *Some switching through dialogue from setting to setting, often unsignaled*
- Require inference to understand characters and why they change; multidimensional characters that develop 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
- Literary devices such as story w-in story, symbolism, flashback&figurative language
- Words that are seldom used in oral language and are difficult to decode; long multisyllable words requiring attention to roots to read and understand
- New vocabulary in fiction largely unexplained, while content-specific words are mostly defined in text, illustrations or glossary
- *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 V

- Can remember information in summary form, to understand larger themes; can follow complex plots, including texts with literary devices (flashbacks...)
- 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 and reflect on purpose of author's use of idiom, irony, and satire*
- 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 very small fonts and more difficult layouts
- Can solve complex multisyllable words (vowels, phonograms, affixes, word origins...)
- Can understand words with multiple meanings, difficult proper nouns, 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
- Crafts and revises many predictions using knowledge of genre and evidence from text

Sample Texts - Level V

All-Star Examples: *Crash, Dragonson, Rascal, Tom's Midnight Garden, Yolanda's Genius, The Cay, Esperanza Rising, Island of Blue Dolphins, Old Yeller, Pictures of Hollis Woods, Tuck Everlasting, The Westing Game, Holes*

Books titles at my level include:

TITLE	AUTHOR
Skeleton Man	Bruchac, Joseph
Things Hoped For	Clements, Andrew
Bernie Magruder & the Bats in the Belfry	Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds
Jackie Robinson Breaks The Color Line	Santella, Andrew
The California Gold Rush	Stein, R. Conrad
An American Plague: The True And Terrifying Story Of The Yellow Fever Epidemic	Murphy, Jim
Bodies From The Ash: Life And Death In Ancient Pompeii	Deem, James M.
A Long Way From Chicago/A Year Down Yonder/ The Ghost Belonged To Me	Peck, Richard
Series of Unfortunate Events	Snicket, Lemony
Chasing Redbird/The Wanderer/Pleasing The Ghost/Ruby Holler	Creech, Sharon
Lord Of The Shadows	Shan, Darren
Everything On A Waffle	Horvath, Polly
The Dark Stairs	Byars, Betsy
Mrs. Frisby And The Rats Of NIMH	O'Brien, Robert C.
Olive's Ocean	Henkes, Kevin
The Fighting Ground	Avi
The Golden Goblet	McGraw, Eloise Jarvis
The House Of Dies Drear	Hamilton, Virginia
The Same Stuff As Stars	Paterson, Katherine
The Thief Lord	Funke, Cornelia
Things Not Seen	Clements, Andrew
Underland Chronicles (series)	Collins, Suzanne
Becoming Naomi Leon	Ryan, Pam Munoz
Birdwing	Martin, Rafe
Dragon Rider	Funke, Cornelia
Getting Near To Baby	Coulombis, Audrey
Habibi	Nye, Naomi Shihab
Harris And Me	Paulsen, Gary
Kensuke's Kingdom	Morpurgo, Michael
Locomotion	Woodson, Jacqueline
Princess Academy	Hale, Shannon
Scary Stories 3: More Tales To Chill Your Bones	Schwartz, Alvin
Silent To The Bone	Konigsburg, E.L.
Stargirl	Spinelli, Jerry
The Eyes Of The Amaryllis	Babbitt, Natalie
The Maze	Hobbs, Will
The Music Of Dolphins	Hesse, Karen
The Mysterious Benedict Society (series)	Stewart, Trenton
The True Confessions Of Charlotte Doyle	Avi
The Young Merlin Trilogy: Passager, Hobby, And Merlin	Yolen, Jane
Words Of Stone	Henkes, Kevin
The Search For Belle Prater	White, Ruth
The California Gold Rush	Stein, R. Conrad

*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.