

## BANDS OF READING LEVELS in Fiction CHEAT SHEET for Parents

If your child is reading books like the Junie B. Jones Series, The Marvin Redpost Series or the Rainbow Fairy's Series, here are some areas where your reader can focus.

### K-L-M

- **Plot**

Problem → Solution

I want a bike → I get a bike

That is, the plot is very simple. The character makes multiple attempts to solve the problem, but they usually get what they want. Also when reading in a series at this level, readers should start to figure out the predictable plot structure of each book in the series. For example, in the Rainbow Series books they always find the fairy at the beginning, they always battle the goblins and they are always successful in the end.

- **Character**

Readers need to be able to identify how the main character's feelings change across the book. There is not an internal change, but feelings change.

Readers also should be reading a lot of books in the series at this level so that they can accumulate a lot of information about the main character. That is, they should carry the information they learned about the character in one book to the next book. The supportive structure of books at this level is that the characters do not change across the series. They are the same in each book.

- **Central Problem**

Goes throughout book

Keep the problem in mind as you read

- **Tricky**

Unknown words → use the context to figure out the meaning of unknown words

If your child is reading books like *Ramona*, The Amber Brown Series, The Fudge Series, Geronimo Stilton

## **N-O-P-Q**

- **Plot**

Problem → Resolution

I want a bike → I learn how to be a good friend

More than 1 problem

Issues around plot (poverty, loss, family issues)

Readers at this level have a lot more work to do. The plot structure is more complicated because mostly characters do not get what they want and social issues are also beginning to be related to the struggles of the character. Also there may not be one clear problem, but instead multiple issues that the character struggles with.

- **Character**

Now characters are changing internally from the beginning to the end of the book. Readers can predict when and how this will happen.

Readers also have to figure out the kind of people their characters' are because the books no longer tell them explicitly.

- **Tricky**

Phrases (figurative language)

The tricky parts are figurative language. That is, readers get stuck on or miss figurative language because they can read the words but they don't take the time to figure out the meaning.

If your child is reading books like *Because of Winn Dixie*, *Skylark*, and *Tiger Rising*, *The Percy Jackson Series*

### **R-S-T (added difficulties)**

- **Plot** Multiple plot lines

Now the reader has to handle multiple plot lines, how to keep track of them and has to figure out how to read when a book is told from multiple perspectives.

- **Character** Minor characters matter more

Now the reader has to get to know the minor character as well as the main character. The reader has to figure out who the minor character is and why they are in the book. They have to figure out how the book would be different if that character was not there.

- **Tricky** Pages may not make sense (rereading does not help....reading on to try to solve)

- **Setting** Plays a role in the story

(act as another character, mimic the feelings of the character, cause of a problem, connected to the problem)

Readers have to pay attention to the setting because it is now playing a major role in the story. The reader has to figure out what the role is and how the setting is effecting the story.

- **Symbolism & Metaphor**

Symbolism and metaphor are introduced and repeated throughout the story. Readers have to figure out what objects or ideas might stand for something else. In these books there is a lot of repetition so readers have many opportunities to notice metaphor.

If your child is reading books like *The BFG*, *Tangerine*, or *Number the Stars*, *Harry Potter Series*

## U-V

- **Plot** "Tragic injustices" Plot does *not* follow the Disney plot line. Things are *not* always good at the end. Stories continue to be layered with multiple social issues.

Reader need to predict differently in this level due to the plot changes. There are also multiple problems and solutions that are connected to different themes.

- **Character** Many characters change (not just the main character)  
Ex: *Tangerine* (main characters parents change, his brother changes)

Readers need to be able to recognize that the characters in these books are complex. It is hard to pin down exactly who this character is. Sometimes the character may seem one way, and other times they may seem totally different.

- **Tricky** As a reader you may have a sense something is going on, but may not quite understand what it is. You have to 'hold onto it' & read on to figure out what it is. You should have *Ohhh...that's what that was!* or *Ohhh...now I get it!* moments as you read forward.

- **Tricky** Lots of metaphor/symbolism with multiple possible meanings. Big events or featured objects often stand for something else. Ex: A landslide represents the feelings of the family and the town.