

Levels K-Z



Dear Parents,

Happy end of the school year! Though the school year is ending, our hope is that your child's reading life continues throughout the summer. The Darien Elementary Schools are working with the Darien Public Library to support families in achieving that goal. The library has a high level, comprehensive summer reading program that is engaging and interactive. Since our mission is that our students read and read a lot, we do not require **any specific book or book list**. Instead, we are asking them to read and record books that they enjoy and make sense for them. That is, books that are 'just right' for them. The library will provide an interactive and motivational electronic reading log for recording time and pages read. You can find the information on the [library's website](#).

Research has shown that children make the most progress in reading when they read books that are on their level and read every day (Allington, McGill-Franzen). A book that is the 'just right' level provides work for the reader, but not so much work that the reader loses the ability to maintain comprehension. By reading 'just right' books, readers learn what

comprehension feels like and will then seek that level of understanding whenever he/she reads.

In order to support parents in understanding what readers should be able to do at each level, we have included a description of the reading work for each of the levels. Ask your child questions related to those areas to see how well she/he is doing. Also provided is a list of titles that are on each level in a variety of genres. (Picture books also come in a variety of reading levels. They can include advanced reading levels.) To determine the reading level of any specific book, just google the title and 'guided reading level' and usually the level will be listed.

This packet covers levels K to Z. When students read higher level books, there is less of a distinct difference between each level. Instead, there are some similar challenges for readers that go across a few levels. These next pages will review those challenges in detail. This is not to say, however, that if a child is reading at one level, they can jump to another level with similar challenges. It simply means that there is specific skill and strategy work that layers across reading levels as books become more complex.

Happy Reading!

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Work Called For in K/L/M Leveled Texts

- **Plot**

Plot is very simple. The character makes multiple attempts to solve the problem, but they usually get what they want. Readers need to be able to recognize those attempts. Also, when reading in a series at this level, readers should start to figure out the predictable plot structure of every book in the series. For example, in the *Rainbow Fairies Series* they always find the fairy at the beginning, they always battle the goblins in the middle 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 inside the character, but instead his/her feelings change.

Readers also should be reading many books in a 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**

There is one central problem in the book that is consistent throughout book. Readers have to be able to hold onto that problem across multiple chapters. Readers may also have to recognize that there are some smaller problems that are solved quickly, as compared to the central problem that goes across the entire text.

- **Tricky**

At these levels there are words that are unknown to the reader, but the larger context of what is going on should support the reader in figuring out the meaning of the words they do not know.

Level K

- Andy Shane, series by Jennifer Richard Jacobson
- Nate the Great, series by M. Weinman Sharmat
- Frog and Toad are Friends, by Arnold Lobel
- Frog and Toad Together, by Arnold Lobel
- Frogs, by Elizabeth Carney
- Houndsley and Catina, series by James Howe
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- Ben Franklin and His First Kite by Stephen Krensky
- Hope for the Elephants, by Patricia J. Murphy
- Jamaica Tag-Along by Juanita Havil
- The Mightiest by Keiko Kasza
- My First Little House Books (Easier Little House on the Prairie Books) by Laura Ingalls Wilder

- King of the Playground by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor
- From Tadpoles to Frogs by Wendy Pfeffer
- Caves by Kimberly Marie Hutmacher
- Rain by Gail Saunders-Smith
- Rainforest Explorer, by Rupert Matthews
- Saving Animal Babies, by Amy Shields
- Slinky, Scaly Snakes, by Jennifer Dussling
- Sofia Martinez, series by Jacqueline Jules
- Thomas Edison, by Barabara Kramer

Level L

- Amazing Arctic Animals, by Jackie Glassman
- Amelia Bedelia, by Peggy Parish
- Arthur Series by Marc Brown
- Cam Jansen (detective series), by David Adler
- Heide Heckelbeck, series by Wanda Coven
- Horrible Harry and the ...(series), by Suzy Kline
- Interrupting Chicken, by David Ezra Stein
- Song Lee Series by Suzy Kline
- Pinky and Rex and the...(series) by James Howe
- Magic Bone, series by Nancy Krulik
- Matter by Christine Webster
- Me...Jane, by Patrick McDonnell
- Piper Green, series by Ellen Potter
- Ricky Rocotta's Mighty Robot, series by Dav Pilkey
- Roscoe Riley Rules, series by Katherine Applegate
- S-S-Snakes! By Lucille Recht Penner
- The Bravest Dog Ever: The True Story of Balto by Natalie Standiford
- An Earthworm's Life by John Himmelman
- Look out for Turtle! by Melvin Berger
- Tentacles: Tales of the Giant Squid by Shirley Raye Redmond
- Earrings by Judith Viorst
- Rabbit and Robot, series by Cece Bell
- Stand Tall, Molly Lou Melon by Patty Lovell
- Story of Diva and Flea, by Mo Willems and Tony Diterlizzi
- Gases by William B. Rice
- Grapes of Math: Mind-Stretching Math Riddles
- Hank Aaron: Brave in Every Way by Peter Golenback
- What Do You Do with a Tail Like This? by Steve Jenkins and Robin Page

Level M

- A to Z Mysteries, series by Ron Roy
- Bunkitsu Bunny, series by John Himmelman
- Critter Club, series by Callie Barkley

- Frankly Frannie, series by AJ Stern
- Freckle Juice, by Judy Blume
- Ivy and Bean, series by Annie Barrows
- Katie Kazoo Switcheroo, series by Nancy Krulik
- Magic Bone, series by Nancy Krulik
- Rainbow Fairies Series by Daisy Meadows
- Judy Moody, series by Megan McDonald
- Junie B. Jones Series by Barbara Park
- Marvin Redpost Series by Louis Sacher
- Littles and the...(series), by John Peterson
- Magic Tree House Series by Mary Pope Osborne
- My Weird School, series by Dan Gutman
- The Zack Files by Dan Greenburg
- The One is the Middle Is the Green Kangaroo, by Judy Blume
- Owl Diaries, series by Rebecca Elliott
- The Secret at Polk Street School, by Patricia Reilly Giff
- Write Up a Storm with the Polk Street School, by Patricia Reilly Giff
- Air is All Around You by Franklyn M. Branley
- Recycle by Gail Gibbons
- Stink, series by Megan McDonald
- Surprising Sharks by Nicola Davie
- Where Does the Garbage Go? By Paul Showers
- Benjamin Banneker: Pioneering Scientist by Ginger Wadsworth
- Insects by Adele Richardson
- Lightning: It's Electrifying by Jennifer Dussling
- Earth by Adel Richardson
- Roller Coaster! Motion and Acceleration by Paul Mason
- Investigate Communities by Neil Morris
- Zapato Power, series by Jacqueline Jules

Work Called For in N/O/P/Q Leveled Texts

- **Plot**

In books at these levels there is more than one problem and there are social issues (poverty, loss, fitting in, family issues) that are connected to the central problem. Readers at this level have a lot more work to do to maintain comprehension. The plot structure is also more complicated because often characters do not get what they want. Also, there may not be one clear problem, but instead multiple issues that the character encounters.

- **Character**

Now characters are changing internally from the beginning to the end of the book. Readers have to be able to 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**

The tricky part in these levels, in addition to tricky parts to previous levels, tends to be the high amount of figurative language. That is, readers can 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 of the phrase and how it fits into the text they are reading. For example, the phrase 'it is raining cats and dogs' should slow a reader down to figure out what exactly that means.

Level N

- A-Z Mysteries Series by Ron Roy
- Almost Zero, by Nikki Grimes
- Amber Brown, series by Paula Danziger
- The Chicken Squad, series by Doreen Cronin
- The Chocolate Touch, by Patrick Skene Catling
- Dragonbreath, series by Ursula Vernon
- The Magic Finger by Roald Dahl
- Ellray Jakes, series by Sally Warner
- Flat Stanley, series by Jeff Brown
- Franny k Stein, series by Jim Benton
- Gooney Bird, series by Lois Lowry
- Herbie Jones, series by Suzy Kline
- Horrid Henry, series by Francesca Simon
- Cat Wings by Ursula K Le Guin
- Fishing in the Air by Sharon Creech
- Mallory McDonald, series by Laurie Friedman
- Nikki & Deja, series by Karen English
- Piper Reed, series by Kimberly Willis Holt
- Ruby Lu, series by Lenore Look

- Stella and teh Night Sprites, series by Sam Hay
- Stories Huey Tell by Ann Cameron
- Julian Stories by Ann Cameron
- If You Were a Writer by Joan Lowery Nixon
- My Name is Maria Isabel by Alma Flor Ada
- Fables by Arnold Lobel
- More than Anything Else by Marie Bradby
- Caves by Neil Morris
- Time for Kids: Bats! (Spiders! and other books in this series)

Level O

- Baseball Fever, by Johanna Hurwitz
- Boxcar Children book series by Gertrude Chandler Martin
- Clementine, series by Sara Pennypacker
- Chocolate Fever by Robert Smith
- Eerie Elementary, series by Jack Chabert
- Humphrey, series by Betty G. Birney
- Jake Drake, series by Andrew Clements
- Just Grace, series by Charise Mericle Harper
- Kate the Great Except When She's Not, by Suzy Becker
- Laura Ingalls Wilder by Thomas B. Allen
- Mallory, series by Laurie Friedman
- Marvin Redpost, series by Pouis Sachar
- Mouse and the Motorcycle, series by Beverly Cleary
- Pippi Longstocking by Astrid Lindgren
- Ramona, series by Beverly Cleary
- Secret Agent Jack Stalwart, series by Elizabeth Singer Hunt
- The Courage of Sarah Nobel by Alice Dalgliesh
- My Weird School, series by Dan Gutman
- The Kings Equal by Katherine Patterson
- Gloria's Way by Ann Cameron
- Legend of Bluebonnet by Tomie dePaola
- Amazing Gorillas by Sarah L. Thomson
- Amazing Tigers by Sarah L. Thomson
- Germs Make Me Sick by Melvin Berger
- Geronimo: Young Warrior by George Stanley
- One-Room School by Bobbie Kalman
- Penquins! by Gail Gibbons
- What's the Big Idea, Ben Franklin? by Jean Fritz
- Wild Cats by Mary Batten

Level P

- Adventures of Captain Underpants, series by Dav Pilkey
- Bad Kitty, series by Nick Bruel

- Fantastic Mr. Fox by Roald Dahl
- Fourth Grade Rats, by Jerry Spinelli
- Friends for Keeps, series by Julie Bowe
- Geronimo Series by Geronimo Stilton
- Good Crooks, series by Mary Amato
- Gooseberry Park, by Cynthia Rylant
- Hank Zipzer, series by Henry Winkler and Lin Oliver
- Liberty Porter, First Daughter, series by Julia DeVillers
- Little Rhino, series by Ryan Howard and Krystle Howard
- Miami Jackson, series by Patricia and Fredrick McKissack
- Press Start, series by Thomas Flintham
- Stone Fox, by John Reynolds Gardiner
- Sugar Plum Ballerinas, series by Whoopi Goldberg
- Thea Stilton Series by Thea Stilton
- Bunnicula Series by James Howe
- Encyclopedia Brown Series by Donald Sobol
- Magic School Bus Series by Joanna Cole and Bruce Degen
- Wayside School, series by Louis Sachar
- Snot Stew by Bill Wallace
- A Bad Case of Stripes by David Shannon
- Homework Machine by Dan Gutman
- The Trail of Tears by Joseph Bruce
- Wiggling Worms at Work by Wendy Pfeffer
- Wilma Unlimited by Kathleen Krull
- The Skeletal System by Caroline Arnold
- Sir Comference and the First Round Table by Cindy Neuschwander

Level Q

- Alvin Ho, series by Lenore Look
- Anastasia, series by Lois Lowry
- Babymouse, series by Jennifer L. Holm and Matthew Holm
- Clarice Bean, series by Lauren Child
- Crenshaw, by Katherine Applegate
- Doll People, series by Ann M Martin and Laura Godwin
- El Deafo, by Cece Bell
- Superfudge and other Fudge books by Judy Blume
- Animal Ark Series by Sheila Callahan
- James and the Giant Peach by Roald Dahl
- Pie, by Sarah Weeks
- Recipe for Adventure, series by Giada DeLaurentiis
- Samuel Eaton's Day by Kate Waters
- Soup by Robert Peck
- Spaceheadz, by Jon Scieszka

- The Velveteen Rabbit by Margery Williams
- Waiting for the Magic, by Patricia MacLachlan
- Dear Mr. Henshaw by Beverly Cleary
- Greek Myths for Young Children by Heather Amery
- Little House on the Prairie Series by Laura Ingalls Wilder
- Train to Somewhere by Eve Bunting
- Castle Diary: The Journal of Tobias Burgess by Richard Platt
- Dragongling by Jackie French Koller
- Chatos Kitchen by Gary Soto
- Money Through the Ages by Tim Clifford
- Outside and Inside Rats and Mice by Sandra Markle
- President, Vice President and Cabinet by Christine Peterson
- The President by Christine Taylor-Butler
- How the Ecosystem Works by Julie K. Lundgreen

Work Called For in R/S/T Leveled Texts

- **Plot**

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

- **Character**

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**

In addition to all of the other tricky issues from previous levels, now books at this level have pages that may not make sense. Readers can't use their old strategies of rereading and now have to apply new strategies to fix up comprehension. That may include reading on to figure out.

- **Setting**

Now setting plays a role in the story. Setting can: act as another character, mimic the feelings of the character or be the cause of the major struggle or connected to it. 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.

Level R

- Allie Finkle's Rules for Girls, series by Meg Cabot
- Because of Winn-Dixie, by Kate DiCamillo
- Big Nate, series by Lincoln Peirce
- Charlie Jackson's Guide To..., series by Tommy Greenwald
- Charlotte's Web, by EB White
- Frindle by Andrew Clement
- Brian's Winter by Gary Paulson
- The Cabin Faced West by Jean Fritz
- The Family Under the Bridge by Natalie Savage Carlson
- Hatchet, by Gary Paulsen
- The Jacket, by Andrew Clements
- A Jar of Dreams by Yosiko Uchida
- No Talking, by Andrew Clements
- Lawn Boy by Gary Paulson

- Our Only May Amelia by Jennifer L. Holm
- Rules by Cynthia Lord
- Shiloh, series by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor
- Shredderman, series by Wendelin Van Draanen
- The Trouble with Tuck by Theodore Taylor
- Abigail Adams: Girl of Colonial Days by Jean Brown Wagoner
- Dinosaur Parents, Dinosaur Young by Kathleen Weidner Zoehfeld
- Global Warming Alert! by Richard Cheel
- Great Migration: An American Story, The by Jacob Lawrence
- Harvesting Hope: The Story of Cesar Chavez by Kathleen Krull
- How Do We Elect Our Leaders? by William David Thomas
- In My Own Backyard by Judi Kurjian
- Magnetism and Electromagnets by Eve Hartman
- My Dream of Martin Luther King by Faith Ringgold
- Now and Ben by Gene Barretta
- Octopuses, Squids, and Cuttlefish by Trudi Strain Trueit
- Rocks and Minerals by Neil Morris
- Secrets of the Mummies by Harriet Griffey
- Story of Jackie Robinson, The by Margaret Davidson
- Volcanoes and Other Natural Disasters by Harriet Griffey
- What Is a Biome? by Bobbie Kalman
- Where Was Patrick Henry on the 29th of May? by Jean Fritz
- Who's That Stepping on Plymouth Rock? by Jean Fritz
- You Wouldn't Want to Be an American Pioneer! by Jacqueline Morley
- You Wouldn't Want to Live in a Wild West Town! by Peter Hicks

Level S

- Afternoon of the Elves by Janet Taylor Lisle
- Anybodies, The by N. E. Bode
- Bat Poet, The by Randall Jarrell
- Bobby Baseball by Robert Kimmel Smith
- Brave Irene by William Steig
- Caleb's Choice by G. Clifton Wisler
- Dear Max by Sally Grindley
- Finding Buck McHenry by Alfred Slote
- From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler, by E.I. Konigsburg
- Granny Torrelli Makes Soup by Sharon Creech
- Green Glass Sea, The by Ellen Klages
- In the Year of the Boar and Jackie Robinson, by Bette Bao Lord
- The Lemonade War, series by Jacqueline Davies
- Lon Po: A Red-Riding Hood Story from China by Ed Young
- Love That Dog, by Sharon Creech
- Missing 'Gator of Gumbo Limbo, The by Jean Craighead George
- Morning Girl by Michael Dorris
- My Teacher Glows in the Dark by Bruce Coville
- One-Eyed Cat by Paula Fox

- Poppy by Avi
- Poppy and Rye by Avi
- Rough-Face Girl, The by Rafe Martin
- Sahara Special, by Esme Raji Codell
- Stanford Wong Flunks Big-Time by Lisa Yee
- More Perfect Union, A by Betsy Maestro
- Mosquito Bite by Alexandra Siy
- Pebble in My Pocket, The by Merideth Hooper
- Shocking World of Electricity With Max Axiom . . . , The by Liam O'Donnell
- So You Want to Be an Inventor? by Judith St. George
- Soccer, series by Matt Christopher
- Taking Sides, by Gary Soto
- Watching Desert Wildlife by Jim Arnosky
- When Washington Crossed the Delaware by Lynne Cheney
- Where Do You Think You're Going, Christopher Columbus? by Jean Fritz
- Winter at Valley Forge by Matt Doeden
- World's Fastest Cars, The by Nick Cook
- World's Wildest Roller Coasters, The by Michael Burgan

Level T

- Nory Ryan's Song by Patricia Reilly Giff
- Diary of a Wimpy Kid, series by Jeff Kinney
- Gregor the Overlander by Suzanne Collins
- Harriet the Spy, series by Louise Fitzhugh
- Justin Case, series by Rachel Vail
- One and Only Ivan, by Katherine Applegate
- Phineas MacGuire, series by Frances O'Roark Dowell
- Sing Down the Moon by Scott O'Dell
- Smile, by Raina Telgemeier
- Week in the Woods, A by Andrew Clements
- Wild Card, by Tiki and Ronde Barber
- Runt by Marion Dane Bauer
- Into the Gauntlet (The 39 Clues) by Margaret Peterson Haddix
- Ben and Me by Robert Lawson
- Vespers Rising (The 39 Clues) by Rick Riordan
- Baby by Patricia MacLachlan
- Brian's Return by Gary Paulsen
- Swindle by Gordon Korman
- Eat Your Poison Dear: A Sebastian Barth Mystery by James Howe
- Well, The by Mildred D. Taylor
- Seeing the Blue Between by Paul B. Janeczko
- Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters by John Steptoe
- Cut From the Same Cloth by Robert D. San Souci
- What Would Joey Do? by Jack Gantos
- Joey Pigza, series by Jack Gantos
- American Revolution, The by Bruce Bliven,
- California Gold Rush, The by Jean Blashfield

- Child's Day, A by Bobbie Kalman
- Comets, Meteors, and Asteroids by Seymour Simon
- Earthquakes by Seymour Simon
- Everglades by Jean Craighead George
- George vs. George: The American Revolution by Rosalyn Schanzer
- George Washington, Spymaster by Thomas B. Allen
- Leon's Story by Leon Walter Tillage
- Leonardo: Beautiful Dreamer by Robert Byrd
- Machu Picchu by Elizabeth Mann
- Minerals by Richard Spilsbury
- Owen and Mzee told by Isabella Hatkoff, et al.
- Polar Bear Journey, A by Debbie S. Miller
- Red, White, Blue, and Uncle Who? by Teresa Bateman
- Roman Colosseum, The by Elizabeth Mann
- Santa Fe Trail, The by Jean Blashfield
- Titanic Sinks!, The by Thomas Conklin
- Tornado by Stephen P. Kramer
- Walk in the Desert, A by Rebecca Johnson

Work Called For in U/V/ Leveled Texts

- **Plot**

Sometimes called "Tragic injustices" the 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.

Readers need to predict differently in books of this difficulty 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. 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**

Readers may have a sense something is going on, but may not quite understand what it is. They have to 'hold onto it' and read on to figure out what it really is. Readers should have *Ohhh...that's what that was!* or *Ohhh...now I get it!* moments as they read forward.

Warning! Books at this level can have mature themes. Parents beware.

Level U

- Beyond the Grave (The 39 Clues) by Jude Watson
- BFG, The by Roald Dahl
- Bogart, The by Susan Cooper
- Cat Ate My Gynsuit, The by Paula Danziger
- Crazy Lady! by Jane Conly
- Dominic by William Steig
- Every Soul a Star, by Wendy Mass
- The Great Unexpected, by Sharon Creech
- Loser by Jerry Spinelli
- Merlin and the Dragons by Jane Yolen
- The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane, by Kate DiCamillo
- Number the Stars by Lois Lowry
- P.S. Longer Letter Later by Paula Danziger and Ann M. Martin
- Pigman, The by Paul Zindel
- Real Thief, The by William Steig
- Righteous Revenge of Artemis Bonner, The by Walter Dean Myers
- Shadow of a Bull by Maia Wojciechowska
- Skeleton Man by Joseph Bruchac
- Sword That Cut the Burning Grass, The by Dorothy and Thomas Hoobler
- Tale of Despereaux, The by Kate DiCamillo
- Tikta'liktak: An Inuit-Eskimo Legend by James Houston
- War Comes to Willy Freeman by James and Christopher Collier
- Wringer by Jerry Spinelli

- Ben Franklin of Old Philadelphia by Margaret Cousins
- Bog Mummies by Charlotte Wilcox
- Congress and the Legislative Branch by Bryon Giddens-White
- Electricity: A Question and Answer Book by Adele Richardson
- Exploring Ecosystems with Max Axiom, Super Scientist by Agnieszka Biskup
- Greek Gods, The by Evslin, Evslin, and Hoopes
- Hidden Worlds by Stephen Kramer
- If You Were There in 1492 by Barbara Brenner
- Jim Thorpe: Greatest Athlete in the World by Jennifer Fandel
- Little Lost Bat by Sandra Markle
- Mystery of the Bermuda Triangle, The by Chris Oxlade
- Phobiapedia by Joel Levy
- Rosa Parks: My Story by Rosa Parks
- Rot and Decay: Decomposing and Recycling by Sarah Leveté
- Tale of Despereaux, by Kate DiCamillo
- The View from Saturday, by EL Kongsburg
- Vincent van Gogh (Artists in Their Time) by Jen Green
- Violent Volcanoes by Louise Spilsbury
- Volcano by Patricia Lauber
- Where Am I?: The Story of Maps and Navigation by A.G. Smith
- Where Germs Lurk by Lori Barker
- Witchcraft of Salem Village, The by Shirley Jackson

Level V

Warning! Books at this level can have mature themes. Parents beware.

- Absolutely Normal Chaos by Sharon Creech
- Birthday Room, The by Kevin Henkes
- Crash by Jerry Spinelli
- Eragon by Christopher Paolini
- Esperanza Rising by Pam Muñoz Ryan
- Getting Near to Baby by Audrey Couloumbis
- Heat by Mike Lupica
- Heroes, Gods, and Monsters of the Greek Myths by Bernard Evslin
- Higher Power of Lucky, The by Susan Patron
- Jip: His Story by Katherine Paterson
- Locomotion by Jacqueline Woodson
- Olive's Ocean by Kevin Henkes
- The Popularity Papers, series by Amy Ignatow
- The Secret Language of Girls, by Fances O'Roark Dowell
- Shelf Life: Stories by the Book by Gary Paulsen
- Silent to the Bone by E.L. Konigsburg
- So Far From the Bamboo Grove by Yoko Kawashima Watkins
- Soldier's Heart by Gary Paulsen
- Stargirl by Jerry Spinelli
- Tuck Everlasting by Natalie Babbitt
- The Underdogs, by Mike Lupica

- Wanderer, The by Sharon Creech
- Yolanda's Genius by Carol Fenner
- Magnets: Magnetism by Rachel Lynette
- Tundra Food Chain, A by Rebecca Hogue Wojahn
- White-Out: Blizzards by Claire Watts
- Madam President by Catherine Thimmesh
- Crumbling Earth: Erosion and Landslides by Mary Colson
- Michelangelo by Diane Stanley
- Lincoln: A Photobiography by Russell Freedman
- Helen Keller: A Photographic Story of a Life by Leslie Garrett
- Sojourner Truth: Ain't I a Woman? by Patricia C. McKissack
- Bard of Avon by Diane Stanley and Peter Vennema
- Declaration of Independence in Translation, The by Amie Jane Leavitt
- Snake Scientist, The by Sy Montgomery
- Earth-Shaking Facts About Earthquakes . . . by Katherine Krohn
- Investigating the Scientific Method . . . by Donald B. Lemke
- Supreme Court and the Judicial Branch, The by Bryon Giddens-White
- A Mango Shaped Space by Wendy Mass
- A String In The Harp by Hancy Bond
- A Tale Dark and Grim by Adam Gidwitz
- Absolutely Almost by Lisa Graff
- Action! Making Movies by Sarah Garza
- Amusement Park Science by Dan Greenberg
- Animal Communication by Eds. Ridgy
- Autumn Street by Lois Lowry
- Basketball Stats And The Stories Behind Them by Eric Braun
- Beauty by Bill Wallace
- Becoming Naomi Leon by Pam Munoz Ryan
- City of Orphans by Avi
- Crash by Jerry Spinelli
- Death By Toilet Paper by Donna Gephart
- Dargon's Milk by Susan Fletcher
- Egg Incubators by JO Windsor
- Egyptian Myths and Legends by Fiona Macdonald
- Erperanza Rising by Pam Munoz Ryan
- Fablehaven by Brandon Mull
- Fearless! Stunt People by Stephanie Kuligowski
- Firegirl by Tony Abbott
- Football Stats And The Stories Behind Them by Shane Frederick
- Gabriel Finely And The Raven's Riddle by George Hagen
- Gaijin: American Prisoner of War by Matt Faulkner
- Get The Scoop On Animal Poop by Dawn Cusick
- Great Migrations by Elizabeth Carney
- Habibi by Naomi Shihab Nye
- Holes by Louis Sachar
- Horton Halfpott: Or, The Fiendish Mystery of Smugwick Manor by Tom Angleberger
- The Loosening Of M'Lady Luggestuck's Corset by Tom Angleberger
- In A Glass Grimmly by Adam Gidwitz

- Kensuke's Kingdom by Michael Morpurgo
- Lawn Boy by Gary Paulsen
- Little White Duck: A Childhood in China by Andres Vera and Na Liu
- Lives of The Artists Masterpieces, Messes (And What the Neighbors Thought) by Kathleen Krull
- Locomotion by Jacqueline Woodson
- Lunch Lady and the Video Game Villain by Jarrett J. Krosoczka
- Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH by Robert C. O'Brien
- My Louisiana Sky by Kimberly Willis Holt
- NERDS: National Espionage, Rescue, And the Defence Society by Michael Buckley
- Pleasing the Ghost by Sharon Creech
- Princess Academy by Shannon Hale
- S.O.S. Titanic by Eve Bunting
- Stand THere! She Shouted: The Invincible Photographer Julia Margaret Cameron by Susan Goldman Rubin
- Summer Ball by Mike Lupica
- Tales From A Not-So-Fabulous Life by Rachel Renee Russell
- Tales From A Not-So-Popular Party Girl by Rachel Renee Russell
- Tales From A Not-So-Talented Pop Star by Rachel Renee Russell
- The Ballad of Lucy Whipple by Karen Cushman
- The Boy Who Swam With Piranhas by David Almond
- The Categorical Universe of Candice Phee by Barry Jonsberg
- The Extraordinary Education of Nicholas Benedict by Trenton Lee Stewart
- The Grimm Conclusion by Adam Gidwitz
- The House of Dies Drear by Virginia Hamilton
- The Liberation of Gabriel King by K.L. Going
- The Lost Hero by Rick Riordan
- The Lost Islands by Kazu, Ed. Kibuishi
- The Root Cellar by Janet Lunn
- The Secret Language of Girls by Frances O'Roark Dowell
- The Son of Neptune by Rick Riordan
- The Songs of Stones River by Jessica Gunderson
- The Split History of World War II: A Perspectives Flip Book by Simon Rose
- The Tecnology of Hockey by Shane Frederick
- The Underdogs by Mike Lupica
- The Westing Game by Ellen Raskin
- The Wolves of Willoughby Chase by Joan Aiken
- Unforgettable Catasrophes by Tamara Hollingsworth
- Unforgettable Natural Disasters by Tmara Hollingsworth
- When Lunch Fights Back Wickedly Clever Animal Defenses by Rebecca L. Johnson
- Which Way Freedom? by Joyce Hansen
- Who Put That Hair In My Toothbrush? by Jerry Spinelli
- Yolanda's Genius by Carol Fenner
- Zombie Makers: True Stories of Nature's Undead by Rebecca L. Johnson

Description of W/X/Y/Z

In addition to characteristics of previous levels:

- Notably complex
- Many employ a postmodern structure in which multiple genres are included, multiple voices are heard
- Perspectives overlap as well as conflict
- Whole chapters jump back in time
- Take risks with form and genre
- Usually uses complex structure to convey ideas
- Books include the idea that our lives and the world defy any attempt to be pinned down or pigeonholed
- Books include the idea that it is not easy to communicate and understand each other
- Readers need to be willing to figure things out while reading
- Readers expected to have and draw upon a lot of knowledge of the world and other books
- Literary references are not essential to understanding the characters, but greatly enhance the reading experience if they are understood
- Readers expected to like challenging books, often set up like puzzles
- Content is often inappropriate for children below fifth grade
- **Warning books at this level can have mature themes. Parents beware.**

Level W

Warning! Books at this level can have mature themes. Parents beware.

- Belle Teal by Ann Martin
- Calico Bush by Rachel Field
- Crispin: The Cross of Lead by Avi
- Day of Tears by Julius Lester
- Dragonwings by Laurence Yep
- Heartbeat by Sharon Creech
- Jazmin's Notebook by Nikki Grimes
- Local News: Stories by Gary Soto
- Missing May by Cynthia Rylant
- Mouse Rap, The by Walter Dean Myers
- Nightmare Hour: Time for Terror by R. L. Stine
- Phantom Tollbooth, The by Norton Juster
- Running Out of Time by Margaret Peterson Haddix
- Sammy Keyes and the Psycho Kitty Queen by Wendelin Van Draanen
- Sammy Keyes and the Search for Snake Eyes by Wendelin Van Draanen
- Sister by Eloise Greenfield
- Story Time by Edward Bloor
- Stowaway by Karen Hesse
- Virtual War: The Virtual War Chronologs by Gloria Skurzynski
- What the Moon Saw by Laura Resau
- Avalanches by Michael and Mary Woods
- Battles of Lexington and Concord, The by Judith Peacock
- Electrical Experiments: Electricity and Circuits by Rachel Lynette

- Erosion: How Land Forms, How It Changes by Darlene R. Stille
- Food Chains and Webs by Louise Spilsbury
- Geology Rocks!: Soil by Rebecca Faulkner
- Girl From Yamhill, A by Beverly Cleary
- Hero Schliemann, The by Laura Amy Schlitz
- History of US: The First Americans, Prehistory-1600, A by Joy Hakim
- How I Came to Be a Writer by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor
- Lost Garden, The by Laurence Yep
- Nelson Mandela by Lenny Hort and Laaren Brown
- Family Apart, A (Orphan Train Adventures) by Joan Lowery Nixon
- Pills and Potions: A History of Remedies by Mary Atkinson
- Pioneer Sampler, A by Barbara Greenwood
- Predators of the Sea by Mary Jo Rhodes
- Pride of Puerto Rico: The Life of Roberto Clemente by Paul Robert Walker
- Sea Otter Rescue by Roland Smith
- Shelter Dogs: Amazing Stories of Adopted Strays by Peg Kehret

Level X

Warning! Books at this level can have mature themes. Parents beware.

- Before We Were Free by Julia Alvarez
- Brooklyn Nine, The by Alan Gratz
- Double Identity by Margaret Peterson Haddix
- Case of the Gypsy Goodbye, The by Nancy Springer
- Island on Bird Street, The by Uri Orlev
- Kira-Kira by Cynthia Kadohata
- Lionboy by Zizou Corder
- Reckless (Mirrorworld) by Cornelia Funke
- Rise of the Wolf (Wereworld) by Curtis Jobling
- Caught by the Sea by Gary Paulsen
- Children of the Great Depression by Russell Freedman
- Earth by Stuart Clark
- Lincoln's Gettysburg Address by Stephen P. Olson
- Maintaining a Healthy Weight by Kate Canino
- Science Detectives by the Editors of YES Mag
- Tech Titans by Carla Killough McClafferty
- On My Journey Now by Nikki Giovanni

Level Y

Warning! Books at this level can have mature themes. Parents beware.

- Abarat by Clive Barker
- Dormia by Jake Halpern and Peter Kujawinski
- Endymion Spring by Matthew Skelton

- Family Greene, The by Ann Rinaldi
- Gifts by Ursula K. Le Guin
- Gilda Joyce, Psychic Investigator by Jennifer Allison
- Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy by Gary D. Schmidt
- One Fat Summer by Robert Lipsyte
- Where the Lilies Bloom by Vera and Bill Cleaver
- Boys' War, The by Jim Murphy
- Gangs by Lori Hile
- Harriet Beecher Stowe by Henry Elliot
- Harriet Tubman: Conductor on the Underground Railroad by Patricia Lantier
- Listen Up by Greg Roza
- North Over South by Michael Bernard Burgan
- Shipwreck at the Bottom of the World by Jennifer Armstrong
- Variation in Living Things by Robert Snedden

Level Z

Warning! Books at this level can have mature themes. Parents beware.

- Door in the Hedge, The by Robin McKinley
- Into No Man's Land by Ellen Emerson White
- Monster by Walter Dean Myers
- Stormbreaker (Alex Rider) by Anthony Horowitz
- Breaker Boys by Michael Burgan
- Designing, Building, and Maintaining Web Sites by J. Poolos
- Dred Scott Decision, The by Jason Skog
- Elizabeth Van Lew: Civil War Spy by Heidi Schoof
- Genetics: A Living Blueprint by Darlene Ruth Stille
- Great Women of the Suffrage Movement by Dana Meachen Rau
- Greatest: Muhammad Ali, The by Walter Dean Myers
- Left for Dead by Pete Nelson
- September 11 by Mary L. Englar
- Documenting Women's Suffrage by Peter Hicks
- If I Should Die Before I Wake by Han Nolan
- Once a Witch by Carolyn MacCullough
- Party Girl by Lynne Ewing
- Reformed Vampire Support Group, The by Catherine Jinks