

NILES PUBLIC LIBRARY READING LEVELS

Level 1 Reading:

- Perfect for reading aloud with children who are getting ready to read or just starting to read words or phrases
- Few words per page - Less than 10
- Familiar oral language (familiar natural language)
- Most words easily sounded out
- Basic punctuation (period, question mark)
- Simple sentences
- Familiar story lines
- Repetition (often one-word changes)
- Predictable
- Large Type
- Clear Picture/Word Correspondence – Strong Picture to Words Reading Support – Clear Picture/Word Connection
- Usually fewer than 70 unique words

Level 2 Reading:

- For children beginning to read by themselves who may need help
- Increased, varied vocabulary
- Less repetitive
- More words on page (10-20 words per page)
- More use of varied punctuation (eg. some quotations)
- Continued Clear Picture / Word Connection for Reading Support or Confirmation
- Not too long—less than 50 pages
- Predominantly simple sentences; few complex sentences
- Clear Story Line
- Usually 70 or more unique words

Level 3 Reading:

- Just right for children who can read independently and *are ready* to grasp more challenging and underlying meanings
- Greater use of inference
- More complex storylines
- More challenging vocabulary is used.
- Illustrations for reading support and for story “atmosphere”
- Books are longer, have more words on the page and have more multi-syllabic words
- Greater use of complex sentences
- Greater use of varied punctuation
- Less repetition
- Not as predictable
- Characters and plots are more fully developed
- Some challenges in language usage such as similes and metaphors

Level 4 Reading:

- For children who can read independently and can grasp more challenging and underlying meanings / higher-order thinking / inference
- Requires reader to have fluency and successful use of varied reading strategies
- Story Line / Subject is more complex/abstract
- Increase of challenging vocabulary
- Length of book may be longer with more words per page
- Illustrations used for story “atmosphere,” not support
- Greater variety and use of punctuation including italics, ellipsis, etc.
- Characters and plots have more substance
- Sentences are longer and more complex
- Many of these books are similar to our Easy Fiction but are shorter

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