Text Level Indicators

According to research, there are different behaviors that a student will exhibit at each A-Z text level. The following describes the behaviors that a child may demonstrate at each text level. There are also examples of what each text level may look like.

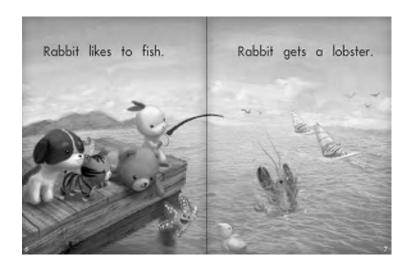
Readers at Level A:

- Recognize letters and their sounds
- Point to words while reading
- Use picture to support understanding
- Know the difference between words and pictures
- One sentence per page with simple words
- Read easy, high frequency words (the, a, I, and, is, can, in, it)



Readers at Level B:

- · Follow a sentence over 2 lines of text
- Continue to point to words while reading
- Recognize pattern throughout story
- Reread to fix reading mistakes
- Read, easy high frequency words
 (the, and, my, like, see, is, can, it)



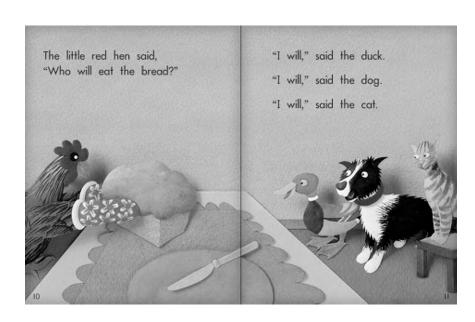
Readers at Level C:

- Read simple stories with 2-6 lines of text on page
- Notice repeated lines & phrases
- Begin to follow text with eyes, rather than pointing
- Use strategies to help understanding
- Begin to correct reading mistakes
- Read easy, high frequency words (the, and, like, see, here, look, is, can, in, it)



Readers at Level D:

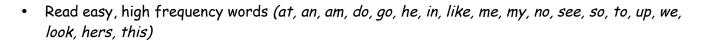
- Read fiction and simple nonfiction
- Continue to follow text with eyes, rather than pointing
- Read text with fewer lines of repeated words
- Read compound words (ex: newspaper, sandbox) and words ending in -ing



- Continue to correct reading mistakes
- Read easy, high frequency words (at, an, am, do, go, he, in, like, me, my, no, see, so, to, up, we)

Readers at Level E:

- Read books with 3-8 lines of text
- Follow text with eyes, rather than pointing
- Read texts that require more attention for understanding
- Follow punctuation correctly
- Take apart long words
- Rely on meaning from the text, rather than pictures
- Read fluently



Dad had a sandwich. Len and Kate had popcorn.

"No snacks, Jack!

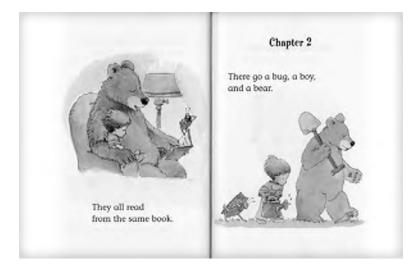
Dad said,

Jack wanted snacks, too.

Let's go out and play."

Readers at Level F:

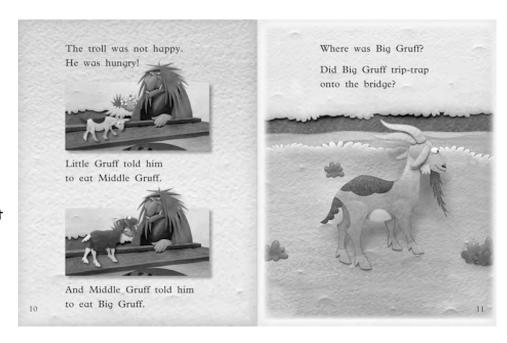
- Begin to understand genres (fiction, non-fiction, etc.)
- · Read and understand dialogue in text
- Read words with multiple syllables (ex: disappear, unhappy)
- Understand contractions (ex: can't= cannot), possessives (ex: Rob's car)



• Automatically read high frequency words (all, are, be, but, for, got, had, of, on, then, this, your)

Readers at Level G:

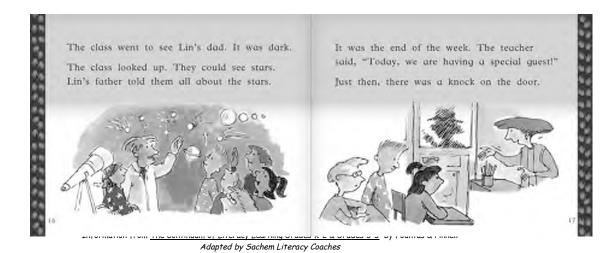
- Continue to understand different genres
- Read 3-8 lines of text per page; text is smaller
- Read difficult words by using letter/sound information, thinking of familiar words, taking apart words
- Read text with a few challenging vocabulary words



Automatically read high frequency words (all, are, be, but, for, got, had, of, on, then, this, your)

Readers at Level H:

- Read longer text with more challenging vocabulary
- Read difficult words by using letter/sound information, thinking of familiar words, taking apart words
- Begin to read new books silently
- Read aloud without pointing to words
- Automatically read high frequency words (come, came, from, her, him, his, one, out, said, saw, she, that, their, there, they, was, went, were, with)



Readers at Level I:

- Read short texts (8-16 pages) & easy chapter books (40-60 pages)
- Understand longer sentences of more than 10 words
- Read many texts silently, without pointing to words
- Automatically read a large amount of high frequency words (from all previous levels & more)
- Reads out loud & sounds like normal speaking (not like a robot)
- Reads out loud & sound like an actor (pauses, reads with expression)

Fox decided to speak to the wax man. "Good evening, sir," she said. "Will you please give me a chicken?"

The wax man smiled, but it did not answer.

Fox was upset. She said loudly, "Mister! I want a chicken now!"

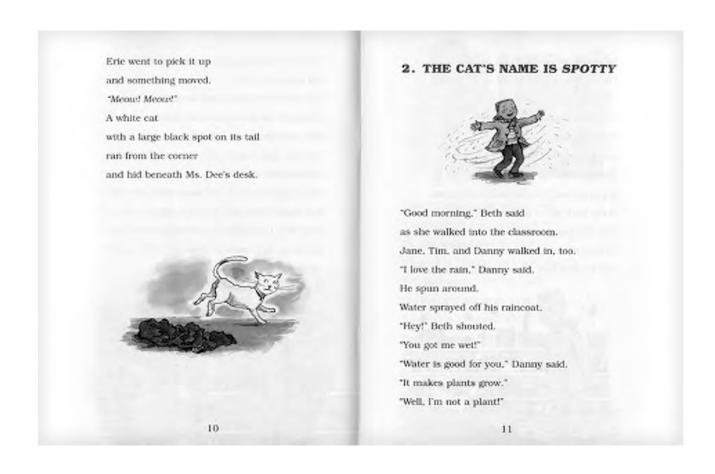
Again, the wax man did not answer.





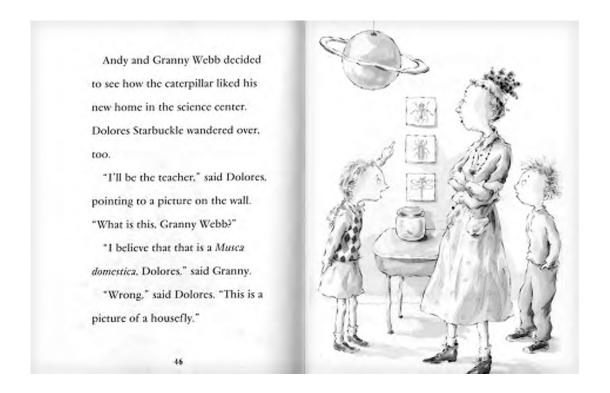
Readers at Level J:

- Read many types of texts (informational text, short chapter books, simple biographies)
- Understand a large number of longer sentences
- Use strategies to figure out hard words (go back and reread, use picture clues, find smaller words inside the bigger word, etc.)
- Read silently during independent reading
- Automatically read a large number of high frequency words (from all previous levels & more)
- Read out loud & sound like normal speakers (not like a robot)
- Read out loud & sound like an actor (pauses, reads with expression)



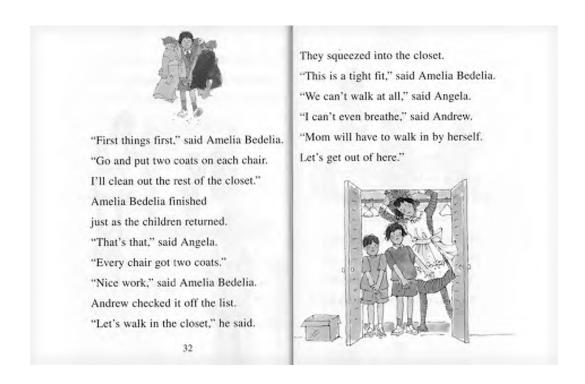
Readers at Level K:

- Read many types of texts (biographies, informational texts, realistic fiction, fantasy, traditional literature, simple)
- Read many illustrated chapter books
- Must remember many details
- Understand dialogue and the use of quotation marks (" ")
- Books have many characters that change a little in the story
- Read stories with diverse cultures
- Use strategies to figure out hard words (go back and reread, use picture clues, find smaller words inside the bigger word, use word parts like prefixes/suffixes etc.)
- Read silently during independent reading, but can read fluently aloud
- Automatically read a large number of high frequency words (from all previous levels)
- Read out loud & sound like normal speakers (not like a robot)
- Read out loud & sound like an actor (pauses, reads with expression)



Readers at Level L:

- Read easy chapter books with less pictures
- Read short informational & fiction books
- Read slower or faster- depending on the book
- Learn new concepts through reading
- Use what they already know to help their reading
- Use pictures and text to help understand
- Connect known facts to new information
- Understand difficult ideas
- Understand a large number of words (plurals, contractions, possessives, multi-syllable words, content-specific words, technical words)
- Understand difficult sentences
- Read silently during independent reading
- Read out loud & sound like normal speakers (not like a robot)
- Read out loud & sound like an actor (pauses, reads with expression)



Readers at Level M:

- Know the characteristics of different genres (realistic fiction, fantasy, informational text, traditional literature, biography, etc.)
- Read fiction chapter books, such as series books (ex: <u>Junie B. Jones</u>) or mysteries
- Read fiction texts that have many characters that change in the story
- Read shorter non-fiction texts on one topic
- Understand difficult sentences
- Read silently during independent reading
- Read out loud & sound like normal speakers (not like a robot)
- Read out loud & sound like an actor (pauses, reads with expression)

"Presidents' Day means you see flags."

"It means we don't have school on
Monday," said Webster.

"It means you can buy stuff on sale,
because presidents are on money," said
Heather S.

"Let's not give away all our ideas," said Mrs. D. "I want everybody to write one page about what Presidents' Day means to you."

"Can we draw something, too?" asked Lucy.

"Can we write a poem?" asked Sophie of the Elves.

"Can we dress up?" asked Stink.

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"Yes, yes, and yes," his teacher said.
"But I still want my one page."

Stink took out his Big Head book of presidents. He flipped to the best president ever. President number four, James Madison.



Readers at Level N:

- Process short fiction stories, chapter books, short informational texts, series books (ex: most
 Amber Brown books) or mysteries
- Read fiction texts that have many characters that change in the story
- Read non-fiction texts on many related topics
- Automatically use strategies (find smaller words inside the bigger word, use word parts like prefixes/suffixes, etc.)
- Read & understand descriptive words
- Slow down to understand or search for information
- Understand difficult sentences
- Read silently at a good rate

Soon the jumble of Sue's bones was exposed. The group quickly realized how unbelievable this Tyrannosaurus rex was. Almost all of the bones were there! Most dinosaur skeletons that are found are missing many, if not most, of their bones.

The creature's skull was the size of a refrigerator. Most of the teeth were set in its jass, some twelve inches or longer from root to tooth tip. Its right front arm was there—one of only two T. rex arms ever discovered. Thirty-six tail



bones circled around the remains—one of the most complete T. rex tails ever found.

Often, fossil bones are chipped or broken apart. Sue's bones were nearly perfect. To top it off, Sue was huge. "It was really amazing," says Susan Hendrickson, "She just kept getting better and better. We were all in such shock. You can't ever dream of finding something so good and so big!" This was the find of a lifetime — the largest and most complete T. rex ever discovered.



Readers at Level O:

- Know the characteristics of most genres
- Read chapters books, shorter informational texts, mysteries, series books (ex: <u>The Boxcar</u>
 <u>Children</u>), books with sequels, or short stories
- Read fiction stories with many characters that change throughout the story
- Read nonfiction texts that give information on many related topics
- Understand difficult sentences and words
- Figure out new vocabulary words by using clues
- Read fluently, like an actor would sound

his eyeglasses out of his pocket and put them on. "Freckles," he said finally, "Just freckles."

"Are you sure?"

Mr. Pangalos' round nose twitched, and he sniffed the air. "Chocolate?" he said. "Have they brought the chocolate milk upstairs already?"

"Forget the milk," she cried. "Look! Now be has them on his face!"

"Oh, no!" said Henry.

"Oh, yes!" said Mrs. Kimmelfarber.

"Oh, my," said Mr. Pangalos. "And they weren't there before?"

"No. Two minutes ago that boy's face was as clear as day. And now. . . . "

Henry felt as if his heart were about to drop into his shoes. He swillowed hard and stared at the two teachers, who were staring at his face.

"Little brown spots all over," said Mrs. Kimmelfarber, "And I see more of them coming out even as we speak."

A tear, just one, welled up in Henry's right eye and began to trickle down his cheek, running slowly in and out of the little brown spots.

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Chapter 4

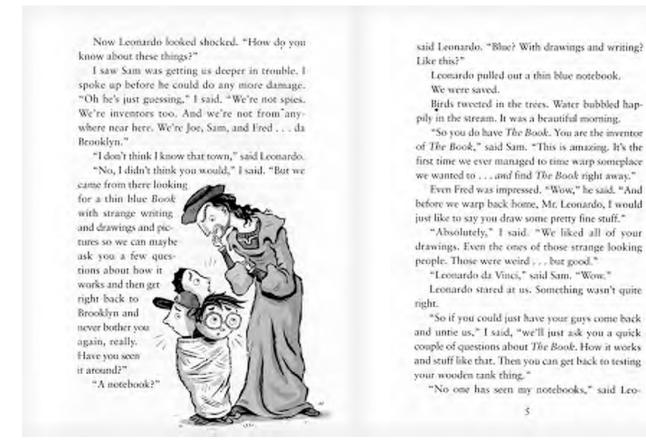
Pop!

DURT BREETS GERMS, Nurse Molly Farthing would often say, and germs have a nasty way of making healthy people ill. Naturally, the infirmary of P.S. 123 was always spotless because Nurse Molly Farthing wouldn't have it any other way. And naturally, as Mrs. Kimmelfarber and Henry rushed through the door that morning, she made both of them go back and wipe their feet on the mat. "And don't bring any of your cocoa in here," Nurse Farthing added. She sniffed the air loudly.

"Cocca?" said Mrs. Kimmelfarber.

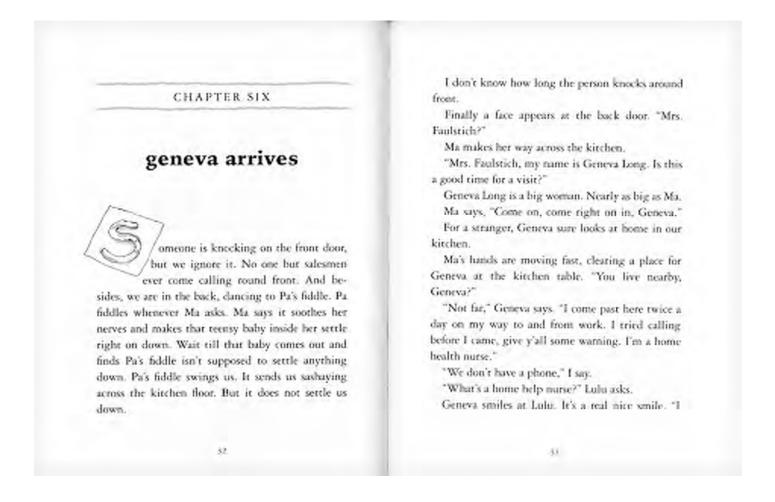
Readers at Level P:

- Know the characteristics of most genres
- Read chapters books, shorter informational texts, mysteries, series books (ex: most <u>Magic School</u>
 <u>Bus Books</u>), books with sequels, short stories
- Read fiction stories with many characters that change throughout the story
- Read non-fiction texts that give information on new topics
- Understand mature themes (race, language, culture, etc.)
- Make sense of new vocabulary words
- Read silently for the most part
- Read fluently, like an actor would sound



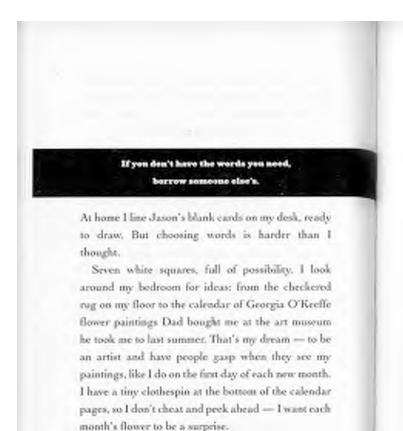
Readers at Level Q:

- Automatically read and understand characteristics of most genres, including biographies on new topics, chapter books, shorter informational texts, mysteries, series, books with sequels, short stories
- Read fiction stories with many characters that change throughout the story
- Make sense of new vocabulary words
- Look for information in pictures, photographs, maps, charts, etc.
- Can break words into syllables
- Read silently for the most part
- · Understand texts with different layouts
- Look for information in pictures, photographs, maps, charts, etc.



Readers at Level R:

- Automatically read and understand characteristics of most genres, including biographies on new topics, fantasies, chapter books, shorter informational texts, mysteries, series, books with sequels, short stories, diaries, & logs.
- Read fiction stories with many characters that change throughout the story
- Make sense of new vocabulary words
- Look for information in pictures, photographs, maps, charts, etc.
- Can break words into syllables
- Read silently for the most part
- Use strategies to figure out difficult words
- Understand texts with different layouts



On my door is a long mirror surrounded with colored sticky-note reminders: my library books are due (Bring fine money!), August 8th is Melissa's birthday (Remember it takes seven to nine business days for mail to get to California! Plan ahead!), and even a few reminders left over from school (Find lunch card!) (Project due Tuesday!). I kept those up because it's nice to see them and know they don't matter anymore.

On my desk is the little bamboo plant in the blueswirly dish Melissa gave me for my last birthday, and my computer with the longest, hardest-to-spell password I could think of: "anthropological." That's so David won't figure it out. Across one bookshelf is a row of art supplies in cause pencils, markers, and paintbrushes. On the next shelf are paint bottles and stacks of paper, everything from thick watercolor paper to filmy sheets of jewel-colored tissue paper. And lots of things I've collected: shells, rocks, a tiny glass elephant, a blackened old skeleton key my grandmother found in a chest but which unlocks nothing. I kept it

Readers at Level S:

- Automatically read and understand characteristics of most genres, including biographies on new topics, fantasies, chapter books, shorter informational texts, mysteries, series, books with sequels, short stories, diaries, & logs.
- Read fiction stories with many characters that change in the story
- Understand hard sentences and words
- Read silently for the most part
- Can break words into syllables
- Understand texts with different layouts
- Look for information in pictures, photographs, maps, charts, etc.

The Night of San Juan

Buck in the 1940s, in Poetto Bious walled city of Old San Juan, everybody knew everybody clar. We neighborhood children played fixely regether on the minuw streets, while from windows and balconies adults kept a watchful eye on us. It was only my lonely friend José Manuel who was feel-folden from joining us.

"Look, Evelyn," whopered Amalia. "He's up there ugain, watching us play."

Aires and I looked up. Three he was, sitting on he balcony floor. He peeced sadly down at an chrough the weought iron miling, while his grandma's soap opera bland from the radio imide. No marrer how hard José Manuel tried, he could not convince his grandma to let him play out on the street.

"Too many crazy drivers! Too hard, the cobblestores!"

"May peligross!" His granders would shake her head and
say, "Too dangerous!"

Busides her fear of danger on the street, José Manuel's grandma kept to herself and never smiled, so most of us were afraid of her. That is, until my sovers and I changed all that.

"One day," Armalia suddenly announced, "I'm going to ask his grandma to let him come down and play." If anyone would have the courage to do that, it was my lettle stater Amalia. Even though the was only seven, she was also the most during of the three of us.

We never knew what the would do next. In fact, at that very moment I could see a mischievous grin speeading across her freckled face at two elegant women turned the corner of Calle Soi. Once they serolled down the server in from of us, Amalia swiftly mark up behind them and flipped their skiets up to expose their lace-trimmed slips.

"¡Sivergional" the women cried out. "Little ratcall"

We could hardly hold our laughter in. We all looked up to make sure note of the neighbors had seen het. If anyone had, we would surely have been soulded as soon as we got harne. News inveled fast in our neighborhood.

Luckily, only flood Manuel was watching in with attrustrant in his winful eyes. Geneful for an audience, Amalia striled at him, cuttued, and ran down the sever reward the old cathedral with so choing after

Readers at Level T:

- Automatically read and understand characteristics of most genres, including biographies on new topics, fantasies, chapter books, shorter informational texts, mysteries, series, books with sequels, short stories, diaries, logs, fantasies, myths & legends.
- Read longer texts with many lines of print that require the reader to remember lots of information
- Read silently for the most part
- Can break words into syllables
- Use strategies to figure out difficult words
- Look for information in pictures, photographs, maps, charts, etc.
- · Use what they already know to understand a text

"Where did you first get Sounder?" the boy asked

"I never got him. He came to me along the road when he wasn't more's a pup."

The father turned to the cabin door. It was ajar. Three small children, none as high as the level of the latch, were peering out into the dark. "We just want to pet Sounder," the three all said at once.

"It's too cold. Shut the door."

"Sounder and me must be about the same age," the boy said, togging gently at one of the coon dog's ears, and then the other. He felt the importance of the years—as a child measures age which separated him from the younger children. He was old enough to stand out in the cold and run his fingers over Sounder's head.

No dim lights from other cabins punctuated the night. The white man who owned the visit endless fields had scattered the cabins of his Negro sharecroppers far apart, like flyspecks on a whitewashed ceiling. Sometimes on Sundays the boy walked with his parents to set awhile at one of the distant cabins. Sometimes they went to the meetin' house. And there was school too. But it was far away at the edge of town. Its term began after harvest and ended before planting time. Two successive Octobers the boy had started, walking the eight miles morning and evening. But after a few weeks when cold winds and winter sickness came, his mother had said, "Give it up, child. It's too long and too cold." And the boy, remembering how he was always laughed at for getting to school so late, had agreed. Besides, he thought, next year he would be bigger and could walk faster and get to school before it started and wouldn't be laughed at. And when he wasn't dead-tired from walking home from school, his father would let him hunt with Sounder. Having both school and Sounder would be mighty good, but if he couldn't have school, he could always have Sounder.

"There ain't no dog like Sounder," the boy said. But his father did not take up the conversation. The boy wished he would. His father stood silent and motionless. He was looking past the rim of half-light that came from the cabin window and pushed back the darkness in a circle that lost stielf around the ends of the cabin. The man seemed to be listening. But no sounds came to the boy.

Sounder was well named. When he treed a coon or possum in a persimmon tree or on a wildgrape vine, his voice would roll across the flat-

Readers at Level U:

- Automatically read and understand characteristics of most genres, including biographies on new topics, fantasies, chapter books, shorter informational texts, mysteries, series, books with sequels, short stories, diaries, logs, fantasies, myths & legends.
- Read longer texts with many lines of print that require the reader to remember lots of information
- Read silently for the most part
- Can break words into syllables
- Use strategies to figure out difficult words
- Search for and use information in a text
- Look for information in pictures, photographs, maps, charts, etc.

Chapter Twenty-fire _____

MIGGERY SOW called the man who purchased her Uncle, as he said she must. And also, as he said she must. Mig tended Uncle's sheep and cooked Uncle's food and scrubbed Uncle's kettle. She did all of this without a word of thanks or praise from the man himself.

Another unfortunate fact of life with Uncle was that he very much liked giving Mig what he referred to as 'a good clout to the ear." In fairness to Uncle, it must be reported that he did always inquire whether or not Mig was interested in receiving the clout.

Their daily exchanges went something like this:

Uncle: I thought I told you to clean the kettle."

Mig: I cleaned it, Uncle. I cleaned it good."

Uncle: 'Ah, it's filthy. You'll have to be punished

won't ye?"

Mig "Got, Uncle, I cleaned the kettle."

Uncle: 'Are ye saying that I'm a liar, girl?'
Mig: 'No, Uncle.'

Uncle: "Do ye want a good clout to the ear, then?" Mig: "No, thank you. Uncle. I don't."

Also, Uncle seemed to be as entirely unconcerned with what Mig wanted as her mother and father had been. The discussed clout to the ear was always delivered ... delivered, I am afraid, with a great deal of enthusiasm on Uncle's part and received with absolutely no enthusiasm at all on the part of Mig.

These clours were alarmingly frequent. And Uncle was scrupulously fair in paying attention to both the right and left side of Miggery Sow So it was that after a time, the young Migs ears came to resemble not so much ears as pieces of cauliflower stuck to either side of her head.

And they became about as useful to her as pieces of cruliflower. That is to say that they all but ceased their

Readers at Level V:

- Read and understand characteristics of most genres, including biographies on new topics, fantasies, chapter books, shorter informational texts, mysteries, series, books with sequels, short stories, diaries, logs, fantasies, myths & legends
- Read texts that are longer and involve remembering information
- Read silently for the most part
- Can break words into syllables
- Search for & use information in a text
- Look for information in pictures, photographs, maps, charts, etc.

Someday I'd like to be on that boat, I thought, to see what it would be like to look back at the land. I glanced at the railing that ran along the end of the pier. It was so low it would be hard to see from a ship.

"School," Josie said. "Of course." She put her hand on my shoulder. It was the hand holding the sea grass. I felt a soft scratch against my skin.

Josie's legs were bare, with dainty spider veins showing, and her silky shoes were soaked with snow and spray. I didn't want the mustard woman to see them.

I opened the back door of the car and slid in, and we drove off, leaving Josie looking after us, her head tilted as she waved at me, the sea grass in her hand blowing in the wind.

"What's going on here?" the mustard woman said.
"No school?"

I ran my tongue over my lips, trying to figure out the best lie 1 could. "I told her today was a holiday, teachers" conference."

The mustard woman shook her head. "And she believed that?" she said. "We'll have to see about this."

I reached into my pocket and held on to the shell. For the first time in my life, I thought, I'd really have to go to school. I'd have to if I wanted to stay at Josie's.

or II Familia Reilly Giff



My head was a round burl of wood, the sea grass, dried now, a swirl on top. Josie spent hours over it at the kitchen table, humming to herself, a tray of tiny knives spread out in front of her.

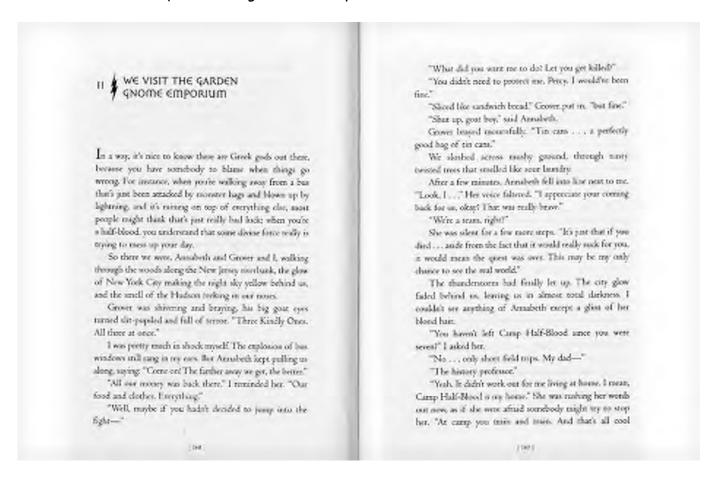
It was Monday, early in December, almost dark in the lane afternoon. No Chinese dinner tonight. I was making a dish Izzy had taught me. "Special deluxe," she had said, and smiled at me. Chopped meat, ketchup, Worcestershire sauce, and chrese, spooned over hot rolls. Salad. Pound cake with confectioner's sugar sifted over the top.

It was going to be a special deluxe evening. Beatrice was leaving the next morning for New Mexico, where

Pictures of Stollis Woods W 33

Readers at Level W:

- Automatically read and understand characteristics of most genres, including biographies on new topics, fantasies, chapter books, shorter informational texts, mysteries, series, books with sequels, short stories, diaries, logs, fantasies, myths & legends.
- Read about mature themes (abuse, poverty, war, etc.)
- Read silently for the most part
- Use tools such as glossaries, as well as what they already know to understand difficult words
- Search for & use information in a text
- Look for information in pictures, photographs, maps, charts, etc.
- Read texts that require knowing about history



Readers at Levels X, Y, & Z:

- Read and understand characteristics of all genres, including biographies on new topics, fantasies, chapter books, shorter informational texts, mysteries, series, books with sequels, short stories, diaries, logs, fantasies, myths & legends.
- Use critical thinking skills
- Read long texts with long sentences & paragraphs
- Understand mature themes (abuse, poverty, war, etc.)
- Read texts with many characters that change in the story
- Read silently for the most part
- Use what they know to understand a text
- Search for & use information in a text
- Look for information in pictures, photographs, maps, charts, etc.
- Read texts that require knowing about history & science

*SO WHAT DO YOU SAY?"

ALEX OPENED HIS EYES. So he was still alive! That was a nice surprise.

He was lying on a bed in a large, comfortable room. The bed was modern, but the room was old with beams running across the ceiling, a stone fireplace, and marrow windows in an ornate wooden frame. He had seen nooms like this in books when he was studying Shakespeare. He would have said the building was Elizabethan. It had to be somewhere in the country. There was no sound of traffic. Outside he could see trees.

Someone had undressed him. His school uniform was gone. Instead he was wearing loose pajamas, silk from the feel of them. From the light outside he would have guessed it was midmorning. He found his watch lying on the table beside the hed and he reached out for it. The time was twelve o'clock. It had been around half post four when he had been shot with what must have been a drugged dort. He had lost a whole reght and half a day.

There was a bathroom lending off from the bedroom—bright white tiles and a huge shower behind a cylinder of glass and chrome. Alex stripped off the pajamss and stood for five minutes under a jet of steaming water. He felt better after that.

"So What Do You San?"

He went back into the bedroom and opened the closet. Someone lind been to his house in Chelsen. All his clothes were here, neatly hung up. He wondered what Crawley had told Jack. Presumably he would have made up some story to explain Alea's sudden disappearance. He took out a pair of Gap combat trousers, Nike sweatshirt and sneakers, got dressed, then sat on the bed and waited.

About fifteen minutes later there was a knock and the door opened. A young Asian woman in a nurse's uniform came in, beaming.

"Oh, you're awake. And dressed. How are you feeling? Not too groggy, I hope. Please come this way. Mr. Blant is expecting you for kinch."

Alex hadn't spoken a word to her. He followed her out of the room, along a corridor and down a flight of stairs. The house was indeed Elizabethan, with wooden panels along the corridors, ornate chandeliers, and oil paintings of old bearded men in tunics and ruffs. The stairs led down into a tall galloried room with a rug spread out over flagstones and a fireplace big enough to park a car in. A long, polished wooden table had been set for three. Alan Blunt and a dark, rather masculine woman sucking a peppermint were already sitting down. Mrs. Blunt?

"Alex." Blunt'smiled briefly as if it was something he didn't enjoy doing. "It's good of you to join us."

Alex sat down. "You didn't give me a lot of choice."
"Yes. I don't quite know what Crawley was thinking

How do I find books on my child's independent text level at the public library?

Below are instructions for obtaining access to the Leveled Book List on the Sachem Website.

- 1. Visit www.sachem.edu.
- 2. On the left side, click on the tab for "Curriculum and Instruction."
- 3. Choose "Curriculum Tools" from the menu.
- 4. Under "Language Arts Program K-5," choose "Leveled Book List."
- 5. Clicking on each grade level will give you access to the following text levels:
 - Kindergarten: A-C
 - 1st Grade: C-I
 - 2nd Grade: H-M
 - 3rd Grade: L-P
 - 4th Grade: O-T
 - 5th Grade: 5-W
 - 6th Grade & Up: V-Z

