The list of fiction books below is only a small sample of the books written within each range of levels.

You can use the following guide to determine if the book is just right for you. Ask yourself the following questions:

INTEREST: Am I interested in learning about this character or subject?

WORDS: Can I read almost ALL the words correctly?

VOICE: Does my reading sound like my talking voice?

TALK: Can I talk about what I read? Can I talk about what I think?

*I KNOW my book is just right if I can answer yes, yes, yes, yes!*

Levels A-C:

These books are written in short sentences with repeating sentence patterns. They are written to use sight words and develop simple letter to sound relationships. The pictures are very important for reading these stories.

All Fall Downby Brian Wildsmith

Benny’s Had Enough by Barbro Lindgren (Many other titles by Barbro Lindgren about Benny!)

Brand New Readers by Candlewick Press Publishers

Brown Bear, Brown Bear by Bill Martin

A Boy, a Dog, a Frog, and a Friendby Mercer Mayer

Cat on the Mat by Brian Wildsmith

Colors and Things by Tana Hoban

Do You Want to Be My Friend?by Eric Carle

Growing Colorsby Bruce McMillan

Have You Seen My Cat?By Eric Carle

Have You Seen My Duckling?By Nancy Tafuri

I Went Walking by Sue Williams

Joshua James Likes Trucksby Catherine A. Petrie

Look What I Can Do by Jose Aruego

Monday, Monday, I Like Monday by Bill Martin

My Book by Ron Maris

Pancakes for Breakfast by Tomi dePaola

A Rainbow of My Ownby Don Freeman

Sam’s Ball by Barbro Lindgren (Many other titles by Barbro Lindgren about Sam!)

Sam’s Cookie by Barbro Lindgren

Sam’s Teddy Bearby Barbro Lindgren

Sam’s Wagon by Barbro Lindgren

Things I Like by Anothny Browne

Toot, Toot by Brian Wildsmith

Yo! Yes?By Christopher Raschka

Level D-E:

The stories in these levels are about familiar, easy concepts with a simple sequencing of events. The sentences start to become longer with some phrases. Many sight words are used as well as words with endings such as –ed and –ing. The print and spacing become smaller. Many types of punctuation are also used.

All By Myself by Mercer Mayer

The Chick and the Duckling by Mirra Ginsburg

Five Little Monkeys Jumping on the Bed by Eileen Christelow

Foot Book by Dr. Seuss

Get Lost Becka! by Shirley Simon

It Looked like Spilt Milk by Charles Shaw

Herman the Helper by Robert Kraus

Inside, Outside, Upside Down by Stan & Jan Bernstein

Puppy Sam series by Mary Labatt

Rosie’s Walk by Pat Hutchins

Sam’s Cookie (series) by Barbo Lindgren

Tiny the Snow Dog (series) by Cari Meister

Where’s Spot by Eric Hill

Level F-G:

The stories in these levels have a clear beginning, middle and end. The content is familiar and the experiences extend beyond the home. There are some new formats being used (letters, questions/answers). The sentences become longer with clauses, phrases and adjectives. Readers will need to use their decoding strategies to read multisyllabic words.

Biscuit series by Alyssa Satin Capucilli

The Carrot Seed by Krauss

Cookie’s Week by Cindy Ward, Tomie dePaola

Dear Zoo by Rod Campbell

Don’t You Feel Well, Sam? By Amy Hest (series)

Hooray for Snail by John Stadler

Itch, Itchy Chicken Pox by Grace Maccarone

Just Like Daddy by Frank Asch

A New House for Mole and Mouse by Harriet Ziefart

Nicky Upstairs and Down by Harriet Ziefart

Pup and Hound series by Susan Hood

Puppy Mudge by Cynthia Rylant

Rosie’s Walk by Pat Hutchins

Titch by Pat Hutchins

Zoo Looking by Mem Fox

Level H-I

The stories at these levels have episodes which are elaborated and are less repetitive and often occur over time. Many compound sentences are used and there is an introduction of subject specific vocabulary. There is a wider range of sight words and the spelling patterns become more complex. This is the area when easy, illustrated chapter books begin.

Danny and the Dinosaur by Syd Hoff

A Color of His Own by Leo Lionni

Father Bear Comes Home by Pat Minarik

Good Night Owl! By Hutchins

Happy Birthday, Sam by Hutchins

A Kiss for Little Bear by Minarik

Sammy the Seal by Syd Hoff

Tidy Titch by Pat Hutchins

There’s a Nightmare in My Closet by Mercer Mayer

We Are Best Friends by Aliki

Where Are you Going Little Mouse? By R. Kraus

Whose Mouse Are You? By R. Kraus

You’ll Soon Grow Into Them, Titch by Pat Hutchins

Level J – K

These stories are typically beginning chapter books with short chapters with episodes occurring over time. Some figurative language (simile, metaphor) is introduced. The setting becomes important to understand the plot of the story. Picture support is decreased; there are more pages of print without pictures. Words with multiple syllables provide a challenge for decoding.

Andy Shane by Abby Carter

Arthur’s Honey Bear by Lillian Hoban

A Bargain for Frances by Russell Hoban

Bear series by Frank Asch

Clifford by Norman Bridwell

Commander Toad by Jane Yolen

Curious George by Margret & H.A. Rey

D.W. series by Marc Brown

Fox Series by Edward Marshal

Franklin by Sharon Jennings

Frog and Toad by Arnold Lobel

Froggy Series by Jonathan London

Henry and Mudge by Cynthia Rylant

Harry the Dirty Dog by Gene Zion

High-Rise Private Eyes by Cynthia Rylant

Iris and Walter by Elissa Haden Guest

Jimmy’s Boa by Trinka Hakes Noble

Little Bear by Else Holmelund Minarik

Lovable Lyle by Bernard Waber

Henry and Mudge by Cynthia Rylant

Meet M & M by Pat Ross

Mr. Putter an Tabby by Cynthia Rylant

Minnie & Moo by Denys Cazet

Nate the Great by Marjorie Weinman Sharmat

Poppleton by Mark Teague

Watch Out, Ronald Morgan! By Patricia Reilly Giff

Young Cam Jansen by David Adler

Level L –M

These stories include character series and chapter books with fewer illustrations and more sophisticated language structure. The longer stories and chapters are more involved and take place over longer periods of time. The vocabulary is detailed and descriptive and the plots become more complex. Punctuation becomes varied (i.e. italics, ellipses)

Amelia Bedelia by Peggy Parish

Arthur Chapter Books by Marc Brown

Bailey School Kids by Debbie Dadey

Cam Jansen by David Adler

George and Martha by James Marshall

Horrible Harry by Suzy Kline

Jenny Archer by Ellen Conford

Judy Moody by Megan McDonald

Junie B. Jones by Barbara Park

The Kids of the Polk Street School by Patricia Reilly Giff

The Littles by John Peterson

Magic Tree House by Mary Pope Osborne

Marvin Redpost by Louis Sachar

Madeline by Ludwig Bemelmans

Matt Christopher Series by Matt Christopher

Miss Nelson is Missing by James Marshall

My Weird School by Dan Gutman

New Kids at the Polk Street School by Patricia Reilly Giff

Pee Wee Scouts by Judy Delto

Pinky and Rex by James Howe

Ready Freddy! (series) by Abby Klein

Riverside Kids (series) by Johanna Hurwitz

Tales of Amanda Pig by Jean Van Leeuwen

Level N- O

These stories become more complex and are about more sophisticated themes. The longer chapters present a variety of problems that go beyond personal experiences. The themes require interpretation. There is use of literary devices such as irony and suspense. The vocabulary continues to expand and increases in difficulty.

A-Z Mysteries by Ron Roy

All Star Sport Stories by Fred Bowen

Amber Brown series by Paula Danziger

Box Car Children by Gertrude Warner

Catwings Adventures by Ursula Leguin

Chocolate Fever by Kimmel-Smith

Doyle and Fossey Science Detectives (series) by Michelle Torrey

Dragon Slayer Academy by Kate McMullin

Flat Stanley by Jeff Brown

Gooney Gird Greene (series) by Lois Lowry

Julian/Huey stories (series) by Ann Cameron

Mallory Series by Laurie Friedman

Meg Mackintosh (series) by Lucinda Landon

Pony Pals by Jeanne Betancourt

Stink! (series) by Megan McDonald

Tales from the House of Bunnicula by James Howe

Weird Planet by Dan Greenburg

Level P-Q-R

These longer stories require the reader to sustain interest and meaning over time. They contain complex themes and are written using sophisticated vocabulary which is not clearly defined for the reader. The sentence structures become longer and more complex. The topics go beyond personal experiences and require the reader to take on perspectives.

Abby Hayes (series) by Anne Mazor

American Girl series

Anastasia Krupnik by Lois Lowery

Battle for the Castle by Winthrop

Because of Winn Dixie by Kate DiCamillo

Clarice Bean series by Lauren Child

Deltora Quest by Emily Rodda

Diary of a Wimpy Kid Series by Jeff Kinney

Dragon Slayer Academy (series) by Kate McMullen

Fantastic Mr. Fox by Roald Dahl

Frindle by Andrew Clements

Fudge series by Judy Blume

Guardians of Ga’hole series

Geronimo Stilton by Geronimo Stilton

Help, I’m Trapped (series) by Clifford

James and the Giant Peach by Roald Dahl

Jake Maddox series (sports)

Joshua T. Bates series by Susan Shreve

The Library Card by Jerry Spinelli

Skinnybones by Parks

Spiderwick Chronicles

Stuart Little by E.B. White

Time Warp Trio by Scieszka

Wayside School (series) by Louis Sachar

S-T-U

The books at these levels cover a wide variety of genres, including historical fiction. The settings may be unfamiliar to the reader. The characters become more complex often with multiple dimensions. Characters are often developed through symbolism. The plots and subplots develop themes including those of coming of age. Readers should be able to make connections with previously read texts and historical events.

Becoming Naomi Leon by Pam Munoz Ryan

Bridge to Terabithia by Katherine Paterson

Charlie Bones Series by Jenn Nummo

The City of Ember Series by Jeanne DuPrau

The Good Dog by Avi

The Kid Who Ran for President/ The Kid Who Became President by Dan Gutman

The Million Dollar Series by Dan Gutman

Poppy and Rye by Avi

The Sisters Grimm Series by Michael Buckley

Reading nonfiction is also very important to build vocabulary and background knowledge. These books support the interests and increase the motivation for many readers. The topics listed below are some of the nonfiction topics covered at the various grade levels.

Kindergarten

Community helpers

Fire safety

Transportation

Ducks

Plants

Weather and seasons

Five senses

Holidays

Grade One

Matter

Magnets

Rocks and minerals

Insects, reptiles, fish, mammals, amphibians, birds, polar animals

Habitats

Plants

Family and community

Holidays

American heroes and American symbols

Maps

Grade Two

Solids, liquids, gases (molecules and mixtures)

Water cycle / clouds

Energy

Electricity

Motion / forces

Butterflies

Maps/Directions

Communities including Livingston

Famous Americans and African Americans

Principles of Democracy

American symbols

Continents

Grade Three

Oceans

Space

Animals

Immigration

Grade Four

Earth, Sun, Moon

Weather

Biomes

Classification of living things

Body systems

Energy

New Jersey

Regions: northeast, South, Midwest, West

Regional explorers

Grade Five

 Volcanoes and earthquakes

Solar system and space technology

Fossils and history of life on earth

Ecosystems

Scientific method

Exploration

Colonization

Revolutionary War

US Government

Westward Expansion

Civil War

Biographies

Stock Market (business people and how businesses got their start)