

What Does Third Grade Level Reading Look Like?

Early independent readers, ready for longer stories but still working on early comprehension strategies

- Frog and Toad are Friends (Lobel)
- Cam Jansen (Alder)
- Junie B. Jones (Park)

Books in this band:

- Are a single story that unfolds a little bit at a time in each chapter
- Readers need to carry one story line in their minds throughout the book
- Stories are straightforward
- Title, chapter titles and blurbs on the back often tell the problem
- Characters usually want something concrete
- There is lots of dialogue
- The author tells you what the characters are like

Independent readers, ready for some inference and sub-plots.

- 26 Fairmount Avenue (DiPaola)
- Ramona Quimby, Age 8 (Cleary)
- Stone Fox
- Bunnica (Howe)

Books in this band:

- Readers have to work hard to identify the central problem
- Many multi-syllable “book” words
- Some figurative language and tricky phrases
- Sub-plots that will eventually fit into the whole
- Problems have multiple parts – not so simple

Above grade level readers

Charlotte’s Web (White)

Journey (MacLachlan)

Bridge to Terabithia (Patterson)

Books in this band:

- Places shift and change, setting evolves and is very important
- Metaphors and symbolism show up
- Increasingly the author is making a statement on social issues, layers of meaning
- Characters are nuanced... and often they are older ... teenagers!
- Characters are very complicated.... And you have to figure that out. Even the characters don’t realize it