

Your child reads independently, or on his/her own, at a **level N**. Readers at a **level N** are able to read a wide range of books including short fiction stories, myths, chapter books, and shorter informational texts. They also read mysteries and series books (books with the same characters such as Katie Kazoo or A to Z Mysteries). Stories at this level often have more detailed storylines with many things happening in the story and have characters who change and grow over time. Nonfiction texts require readers to keep track of new information learned as they move through the book. Level N readers continue to read silently at a good rate and are able to read difficult words while focusing on meaning but readers will also slow down to problem solve or search for information in the text. Readers at level N are also able to read longer texts.

The following table shows the expected ranges of levels at specific grade levels. Make note of where your child should be by the end of the school year:

Kindergarten	1st Grade	2nd Grade	3rd Grade	4th Grade	5th Grade
RB, A, B, C, D	D, E, F, G, H, I, J	J, K, L, M	M, N, O, P	P, Q, R, S	S, T, U

You can help your child reach the end of year goal by following the ABC's of active reading. Your child can answer the following questions to you aloud or, preferably, in writing.

Ask questions

- How does (character's name) actions change what happens in the story? What details from the text support your thinking?
- What lesson about life does this text teach? What parts of the text support your thinking?
- Explain two key ideas from your informational (nonfiction) text and use details to support each key idea.

Build vocabulary

- Ask your child to point out places in the text where personification (giving human features to inanimate objects), hyperbole (an outrageous exaggeration to support a point), or symbolism (when a word is used to represent something entirely different) is used to enhance meaning of the text.
- What words did you notice helped to describe events or characters in the story? What else do you know about _____ (event or character) that can help you understand what the words mean?

Connect with the world

- Have your child write about the main character's motivation in the story. Ask: What drove the character's actions and how did these actions contribute to the events in the story? How would you have handled things in the story differently than the character?
- Write about what you will remember most about this story. Why is it memorable to you and how do you connect the memory to your own life?
- Ask your child to write about how the new knowledge from his or her informational text has changed his or her thinking about the topic?

Keep reading every night! Remember your child can read level N books by him/herself and can read level O books with your help. The list below are sample level N and O books:

Sample Level N Books		
TITLE	AUTHOR	FICTION / NONFICTION
Dancing with Manatees	McNulty, Faith	Nonfiction
Hurricanes!	Hopping, Jean	Nonfiction
I Am America	Smith Jr., Charles R.	Nonfiction
Monsters: Myth or Fact	Feldman, Thea	Nonfiction
Solar System	Vogt, Gregory	Nonfiction
Rumpelstiltskin	Zelinsky, Paul O.	Fiction
You Can't Eat Your Chicken Pox, Amber Brown	Danziger, Paula	Fiction
Tikki Tikki Tembo	Mosel, Arlene	Fiction
Shadow: The Puppy Place	Miles, Ellen	Fiction
The Girl Who Loved Wild Horses	Goble, Paul	Fiction
Sample Level O Books		
TITLE	AUTHOR	FICTION / NONFICTION
Ten True Animal Rescues	Betancourt, Jeanne	Nonfiction
Let's Find Out about Money	Barabas, Kathy	Nonfiction
You Can't Taste a Pickle With Your Ear	Ziefert, Harriet	Nonfiction
Earthquakes	Prager, Ellen J.	Nonfiction
What if You Had Animal Teeth?	Markle, Sandra	Nonfiction
The 89th Kitten	Nilsson, Eleanor	Fiction
Baby-Sitters Club Mystery: Beware, Dawn!	Martin, Ann M.	Fiction
Class Clown	Hurwitz, Johanna	Fiction

To access online resources, such as Kids A-Z to read leveled books on the iPad, computer, or smartphone, go to <http://bit.ly/CMSfamiliesread>.

You can also refer to your child's mCLASS Literacy Performance Report for more information.