

Your child reads independently, or on his/her own, at a **level R**. Readers at a **level R** can read many different types of text including biographies, mysteries, series books, books with sequels, short stories, diaries and logs. They read both chapter books and shorter informational (nonfiction) texts. Fiction books are straightforward but have detailed plots and multiple characters who develop and change over time. Readers understand points of view or perspectives different from their own as well as different settings and people who are in different time periods. They can read and understand long, difficult sentences (some with more than fifteen words). Level R readers can solve new vocabulary words some of which are defined in the text and some which are left unexplained. Readers at this level may find longer descriptive words challenging. There are many lines of print on the page and sentences begin where the previous sentence left off. They consistently search for information in illustrations and come across increasingly difficult graphics.

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

- What important issues are the characters dealing with in this book? What makes these issues important in the world?
- Sometimes characters have ideas that we either don't agree with or have never thought about before. Is there a character in your book that thinks a different way than you do?
- Sometimes there is an image, either on an object or a place that repeatedly appears throughout the story. Does your story have an image like that - one that keeps coming back?
- Take a look at this graphic. Explain what it means in your own words.

#### Build vocabulary

- Act out a part of the story using sound, facial expressions, and physical movement to demonstrate what certain words mean.
- What are difficult words in this book? Use the illustrations to help figure out what difficult words mean.
- Explain the meaning of the word \_\_\_\_\_ as used in this sentence. What information from the book helped you know the meaning?

#### Connect with the world

- What if you were the the character in the book? How would you solve the problem in the story?
- What are new facts you have learned from the informational book you have just read.
- How do the different characters in this book have different points of view about the issues they are facing? Which character's viewpoint do you feel the most connected to and why?

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

<b>Sample Level R Books</b>		
<b>TITLE</b>	<b>AUTHOR</b>	<b>FICTION / NONFICTION</b>
A Book About Planets and Stars	Reigot, Betty Polisar	Nonfiction
San Domingo	Henry, Marguerite	Nonfiction
How Do Flies Walk Upside Down?	Berger, Melvin & Gilda	Nonfiction
Snakes	Seymour, Simon	Nonfiction
Owen & Mzee: The True Story of a Remarkable Friendship	Hatkoff, Isabella & Craig & Kahumbu, Dr. Paula	Nonfiction
Dirty Socks Don't Win Games	Marney, Dean	Fiction
Everywhere	Brooks, Bruce	Fiction
Home Sweet Home, Goodbye	Stowe, Cynthia	Fiction
Nothing's Fair in Fifth Grade	DeClements, Barthe	Fiction
Please Don't Be Mine, Julie Valentine!	Strasser, Todd	Fiction
<b>Sample Level S Books</b>		
<b>TITLE</b>	<b>AUTHOR</b>	<b>FICTION / NONFICTION</b>
Dangerous Creature Records	Compiled By Ryan Herndon	Nonfiction
Number Patterns	Lee, Robert	Nonfiction
The Forest for the Trees	Alexander, Karen	Nonfiction
Finding Buck McHenry	Slote, Alfred	Fiction
Good-Bye My Wishing Star	Grove, Vicki	Fiction
True Confessions	Tashjian, Janet	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.