

Your child reads independently, or on his/her own, at a **level S**. Readers at a **level S** can read many different types of text including biographies, mysteries, series books, books with sequels, short stories, diaries, and logs. Fiction books are have easy to understand, yet detailed storylines and have many characters who change and grow over time. Readers understand perspectives (points of view) different from their own as well as setting and people who are distant in time and space. They can process long, difficult sentences (some with more than fifteen words). Level S readers can read new vocabulary words some of which are defined in the text and some which are left unexplained. Readers at this level are challenged by longer descriptive words They understand texts in a variety of layouts as well as fonts (types of printed letters) and print characteristics (such as: *italics*, **bold** type font, complex illustrations, captions). They consistently search for information in illustrations and come across increasingly challenging 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

- How well do you think the author used the illustrations and graphics? How did they help you as a reader?
- What did the author do that made this text look interesting?
- Tell me about this author's style (the way the author writes the piece).
- What might have changed the character's behavior?

Build vocabulary

- What words did you find tricky? What parts of the text helped you to understand what the word meant?
- Describe the information from a chart or diagram in your nonfiction book using new words you learned from the book.

Connect with the World

- Do you agree with the author's point of view? Why or why not?
- What else would you have included in your nonfiction text if you were the author?
- How do you relate to the main character and his or her changes throughout the book?

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

Sample Level S Books		
TITLE	AUTHOR	FICTION / NONFICTION
Lizards	Bishop, Nic	Nonfiction
The Cod's Tale	Kurlansky, Mark	Nonfiction
Costume Party: Cost and Confusion!	Mankelow, Abe	Nonfiction
Tracking Predators and Prey	Edwards, Sarah	Nonfiction
Tracking Trains	Karen Alexander	Nonfiction
The Broccoli Tapes	Slepian, Jan	Fiction
Fifth Grade: Here Comes Trouble	McKenna, Colleen O'Shaughnessy	Fiction
Sixth Grade Secrets	Sachar, Louis	Fiction
Sample Level T Books		
TITLE	AUTHOR	FICTION / NONFICTION
Eureka! It's an Airplane	Bendick, Jeanne	Nonfiction
Life in the Oceans: Animals, People, Plants	Baker, Lucy	Nonfiction
You Wouldn't Want to Travel With Captain Cook	Bergin, Mark	Nonfiction
How Do You Burp in Space?	Goodman, Susan E.	Nonfiction
Souder	Armstrong, William	Fiction
Tracker	Paulsen, Gary	Fiction
Drita My Homegirl	Lombard, Jenny	Fiction
Emily Rodda's Raven Hill Mysteries: Dirty Tricks	Rodda, Emily & Rowe, Kate	Fiction
Deep Down Popular	Stone, Phoebe	Fiction
The Moon Over High Street	Babbitt, Natalie	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.