

## Children Books' Leveling Criteria

### **Caveats:**

The following criteria are for grading children books according to cognitive developmental stages (shown by age and grade).

They are not meant to evaluate such books, though they may be partially used to this end.

Criteria are chosen to cut across the board, through all types of genres and themes.

Level	Age	Grade
1	4 – 6	KGs
2	6 – 8	1 & 2
3	7 – 9	2 & 3
4	8 – 10	3 & 4
5	9 – 11	4 & 5
6	10 – 12	5 & 6

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Level 1</b>	<b>Level 2</b>	<b>Level 3</b>	<b>Level 4</b>	<b>Level 5</b>	<b>Level 6</b>
<b>1. Genre</b>	Personal daily life matters; imaginary adventures of terrestrial-like creatures (fairy tales, talking animals...)	Family daily life matters; folk stories; imaginary adventures of terrestrial-like creatures (fairy tales, talking animals...)	Community matters; social, patriotic, folk or legendary stories; humor; informational (environment, heritage)	Social or historical issues; social, patriotic, folk or legendary stories; satire; informational (cultures, ecology, science)	Social, patriotic, cultural or historical issues; ethics; mythology; mysteries; social caricature; informational (cultures, ecology, science)	Social, patriotic, cultural, historical or global issues; ethics; mythology; fantasy or mysteries; caricature; informational (ethnicities, ecology, science, biography)
<b>2. Theme: Message or moral lesson</b>	Caring of personal physical needs; love of family and neighborhood; sharing; table manners; respect of basic rules (play, street walking...); staying away from harm's ways; appreciation of nature	Caring of personal moral & physical needs; daily chores; respect of family and neighborhood; appreciation of various forms of life; peace with immediate others; respect of social rules and others' rights; acceptance of others; social manners; caring for nature	Attending to others' physical needs; understanding of affects; respect of community; tolerance of different others; fairness; gender equity; peace with self and close others; appreciation of heritage; etiquette; caring for the neighborhood and the environment	Respect of human body; collaboration; control of affects; peace with self and others; tolerance; gender and social equity; positive social dispositions; critical and open-mindedness; etiquette; caring for heritage, the community and the environment	Respect of human nature and diversity; attending to others' affective needs; cooperation; peace and tolerance; equity; positive social dispositions; normative judgment of self and others; etiquette; caring for heritage, the community and conservation matters (ecology, energy...)	Adolescence issues; respect of human rights; attending to others' needs; cooperation; peace and harmony; equity; positive social and global dispositions; normative judgment of all matters; etiquette; caring for heritage, society and conservation matters (ecology, energy...)
<b>3. Story composition &amp; structure</b>	A handful of characters; one or two familiar settings and contexts; single-problem plot revolving primarily around one or two characters; linear sequencing of events, all ending within a short period (within one day); limited dialogue; transparent cause and primary features	Limited number of characters; a few familiar settings and contexts; simple plot revolving primarily around one or two characters; linear sequencing of events extending over a limited period; moderate dialogue; a moderate mix of easily discernable, explicitly laid out, primary and secondary features	Numerous characters; a few unfamiliar and variable settings and contexts; composite plot revolving around a few characters; reiterative sequencing of events extending over a reasonable period; moderate dialogue; a moderate mix of primary and secondary features, with one or two primary features being implicit	Numerous characters and a variety of settings and contexts; limited literary text; complex plot revolving around many characters; reiterative sequencing of events extending over an extended period; moderate dialogue; a mix of primary and secondary features, and of explicit and tacit information	Numerous characters and a variety of settings and contexts; moderate literary text with some figurative aspects; complex plot revolving around many characters; reiterative sequencing of events extending over a long period; moderate dialogue; a mix of primary and secondary features, and of explicit and tacit information	Numerous characters and a variety of settings and contexts; literary text with symbolism and metaphor; intricate plot revolving around many characters; reiterative sequencing of events extending over long periods; narrative may or not include dialogue; a mix of primary and secondary features, and of explicit and tacit or missing information

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Level 1</b>	<b>Level 2</b>	<b>Level 3</b>	<b>Level 4</b>	<b>Level 5</b>	<b>Level 6</b>
<b>4. Language, style &amp; readability</b>	A few, familiar, concrete, up to three-syllable, single-meaning words; short, single-line, single-tense sentences, following the same pattern; up to three-sentence paragraphs with punctuations limited to the comma and period, and with straightforward interpretation	A few unfamiliar, concrete terms; up to four-syllable, multi-meaning words; elementary syntax with moderate use of adverbs and prepositions; little use of affective terms and phrases; up to two-line, two-tense sentences, following a few patterns; a few sentence paragraphs with moderate punctuations, and with easy interpretation	Literary, a little connotative or figurative, terminology; multi-syllable words; moderate syntax with normal use of adverbs and prepositions; moderate use of affective terms and phrases; moderately long, semantically complex sentences; moderately long paragraphs with reasonable punctuations; a little implicit ideas whose interpretation may require some effort	Literary, a little metaphoric or abstract, terminology; normal syntax and use of adverbs, prepositions; and affective terms and phrases; moderately long, sentences; moderately long paragraphs with a full range of punctuations; moderately implicit ideas whose interpretation may require adduction from cultural domains	Literarily complex, abstract terminology; moderately long, semantically and syntactically complex sentences; moderately long paragraphs with implicit ideas whose interpretation may require adduction from various domains	Technical and foreign terminology; long, complex sentences; moderately long paragraphs with implicit ideas whose interpretation may require adduction from various domains
<b>5. Format &amp; quality</b>	A single paragraph embedded in a full-page illustration; large, non-script font; expanded space between words and lines; vivid color drawings (no photos) that match text and that let key ideas jump straight to the eyes; a single chapter of up to 16 pages on highly dense paper	Up to three paragraphs embedded in a full-page illustration; moderately large font with little italics; moderate space between words and lines; attractive color drawings (no photos) that are easy to decode; a couple of chapters in up to 32 pages on dense paper	Up to five paragraphs with variable style, with up to three side illustrations per page; normal font and italics; normal space between words and lines; a mix of color drawings and photos with moderately implicit information; a few chapters in up to 64 pages on regular paper	Full-text pages with a few illustrations of variable size throughout the book; normal, italic and bold font; normal space between words and lines; a mix of color and black-and-white drawings and photos with implicit information; a few chapters in up to 96 pages on regular paper	Full-text pages with a few inserts (pictures, graphs, tables...) of variable size throughout the book; a limited variety of font type and style; normal space between words and lines; a few chapters in up to 128 pages on regular paper	Full-text pages with a range of inserts of variable size and complexity throughout the book; a variety of font type and style; reduced space between words and lines; a few chapters in up to 160 pages on regular paper

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<b>6. Information processing</b>	Picture-based, concrete thinking; single-pattern, straightforward recognition; descriptive, not explanatory/causal, analysis of text and illustration with primary information easily recognized; affect development	Concrete thinking; pattern recognition; descriptive and explanatory analysis of text and illustration with primary information easily recognized; affect and basic value development	Concrete and minor abstract thinking; pattern recognition and pattern-based prediction; descriptive and explanatory analysis of text and illustration requiring minor discriminatory analysis to delineate primary information; minor inference-drawing about a given situation; preliminary disposition development	Concrete and some abstract thinking; pattern recognition and pattern-based prediction; descriptive and explanatory analysis of text and illustration requiring some discriminatory analysis to delineate primary information; a little inferences; conjectures about implicit information and possible events; normative disposition development and tuning	Concrete and some abstract thinking; pattern recognition; descriptive and explanatory analysis of text and illustration requiring discriminatory analysis to delineate primary information; inferences; conjectures about missing information; prediction of events; critical disposition development and regulation	Concrete and some abstract thinking; pattern recognition; descriptive and explanatory analysis of text and illustration requiring discriminatory analysis to delineate primary information; inferences; conjectures about missing information; prediction of events and open-ended situations; critical disposition development and regulation