

# Characteristics of Text Bands

Text Levels	Characteristics	Mentor Text
<b>A B C</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ These are short, patterned text.</li> <li>✓ They have repetitive sentences that contain simple sight words.</li> <li>✓ The picture clues are very obvious</li> <li>✓ Text matches the pictures</li> <li>✓ Sight words</li> <li>✓ Connections to personal experiences</li> </ul>	<i>Playing with Pickles</i>  <i>I see</i>  <i>I am</i>
<b>D E F</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ The sight words become more difficult.</li> <li>✓ The reader will use more strategies to decode unfamiliar words.</li> <li>✓ There are picture clues, but they are not as obvious.</li> <li>✓ There is usually a character and a setting.</li> <li>✓ Predictable stories</li> <li>✓ 3-4 sentences per page</li> </ul>	<i>Going Fishing</i>  <i>Pizza Party</i>  <i>The Mountain Hike</i>
<b>G-H-I-J</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ The story elements come into play. There is a beginning, middle, and end with events.</li> <li>✓ There is a simple problem and solution.</li> <li>✓ The books may have very short chapters outlining the events. The chapters may be multiple stories within the story.</li> <li>✓ At this level dialogue is present between the characters.</li> <li>✓ Series</li> <li>✓ Familiar story plot</li> <li>✓ Author's Message</li> <li>✓ Developing Vocabulary</li> </ul>	<i>Frog and Toad</i>  <i>Little Bear</i>  <i>The Twins</i>  <i>Too Many Puppies</i>
<b>K-L-M</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ 1 or 2 main characters whose personalities do not change throughout the story.</li> <li>✓ The characters have a problem and solve it.</li> <li>✓ A single story line spans the entire text. The story structure is simple and straightforward.</li> <li>✓ The chapters connect and form the arc of the story.</li> <li>✓ The books contain harder words (multi-syllabic), and there are more words that are not used conversationally.</li> <li>✓ The reader will have to synthesize the ideas of the chapters and determine importance through the text.</li> <li>✓ Short chapters, pages concluded with sentence</li> <li>✓ Context Clues needed, Inferences needed</li> <li>✓ Author's Message</li> <li>✓ Non-Fiction: Vocabulary building</li> </ul>	<i>Magic Tree House</i>  <i>Chalk Box Kid</i>  <i>Nate the Great</i>  <i>Horrible Harry</i>

Text Levels	Characteristics	Mentor Text
<b>N-O-P-Q</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ The story is still structured but has more complexity. There is not just one problem or solution there are more complications to the story.</li> <li>✓ Characters are more complex, they change throughout the story. This change is usually not inferred, it is told to the reader.</li> <li>✓ May use figurative language such as metaphors or puns.</li> <li>✓ Readers will need to refine their sense of the over-arching problem (the one that holds the story together). When determining importance they will need to think about all the complexities of the story.</li> <li>✓ A reader may need to let go of their first expectations, so they can revise as they story unfolds. They need to begin thinking about <i>why</i> characters do what they do.</li> <li>✓ Readers will encounter words that live in the world of written language and are rarely part of the child's spoken language. There are not just tricky words, but tricky phrases and passages. For full comprehension of the story, readers will have to self correct their incorrect interpretations if these passages are misunderstood.</li> <li>✓ Some but fewer pictures, Longer chapter book, Smaller Print</li> <li>✓ Science Fiction</li> <li>✓ Plot development more focused on character</li> </ul>	<p><i>Stone Fox</i></p> <p><i>Box Car Kids</i></p> <p><i>Amber Brown</i></p> <p><i>Fudgeamania</i></p> <p><i>A to Z Mysteries</i></p> <p><i>Encyclopedia Brown</i></p>
<b>R-S-T</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ The setting is more important to the story, it becomes a force. It can influence the characters and the plot.</li> <li>✓ Characters are multi-dimensional and respond to the setting. The reader has to figure out how to "read them" like people because they have complex internal, emotional lives.</li> <li>✓ The stories become layered with meaning. The characters change and learn through the process of working through problems. The problems may be big enough and layered enough to not all be solved.</li> <li>✓ Minor characters are added to the plot. They tend to play bigger roles and are more important to the story.</li> <li>✓ Sub-plots begin to appear in these levels. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ There are parts of these texts that may be harder to comprehend on purpose. A reader can say "huh?" and keep reading expecting things to clear up later.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><i>Sarah Plain and Tall</i></p> <p><i>Winn Dixie</i></p> <p><i>Bridge to Terabithia</i></p> <p><i>Tiger Rising</i></p>
<b>U-V-W</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Unfold chronologically, but in a relatively straightforward structure.</li> <li>✓ The difference is that there may be some big event that happened before the novel begins and the reader has to read on in order to learn about that event and find meaning in it.</li> <li>✓ These books are complex. There are many pieces and parts readers will have to put together.</li> <li>✓ At this level the author is trying to teach the reader a bigger lesson. There is more focus on the theme.</li> <li>✓ Symbolism plays a bigger role. The characters and setting may be more symbolic of bigger themes.</li> <li>✓ There can be multiple plot lines.</li> <li>✓ Characters continue to become more complex and nuanced. Increasingly these characters are teenagers. If you have a reader that is not a teenager, they may be unable to empathize fully with the characters and miss nuances and metaphors in the story.</li> <li>✓ The point of view starts to become even more multi-dimensional. It is necessary to consider the perspectives of all the characters in the story, not just the protagonist.</li> </ul>	<p><i>Number the Stars</i></p> <p><i>Stargirl</i></p> <p><i>Freak the Mighty</i></p> <p><i>A Long Way from Chicago</i></p> <p>Science Fiction</p> <p>Historical Fiction</p>