



Leveling Books for Beginning Readers

- **Age Range** - self explanatory
- **Grade levels** - Kindergarten through Grade Two
- **Classroom/Guided Reading levels** - Coded A to Z - developed by Fountas and Pinnell
- **Lexile** - Measures both reader ability and text difficulty on the same scale as opposed to solely relying on test scores or grade levels. A Lexile measure does not address the content or quality of the book. A Lexile measure is based on two strong predictors of how difficult a text is to comprehend: word frequency and sentence length.
- **Reading Recovery** -a one-to-one tutorial program for first-grade children who are having extreme difficulty in learning to read or write. Books recommended for this program are organized into a very fine gradient, labeled from 1 to 22.
- **Basal** -associated with teaching reading according to acquired skills.

Levels at PPLD: Books for Beginning Readers

Levels used at PPLD	Reading Recovery	Lexile	Guided reading	Basal	Grade levels
Level A: Pre-emergent	1-4	BR-125	A-E	Readiness, PrePrimer 1	K
Level B: Emergent	5-8	100	E-H	PrePrimer 2 PrePrimer 3	K-1
Level C: Early Fluent	9-12	200	H-K	Primer	1-2
Level D: Fluent	13-22+	300 +	J-M	Grade 1 +	2

Children read at their own pace so we have avoided labeling books with a “grade level.” These are broad categories and therefore there is a progression within each level. Levels have been determined using a combination of information available for each book including grade level, Guided Reading level, Lexile, length and subject matter.

Level A: Pre-emergent

Kindergarten – middle of first grade, Guided Reading Levels A-E

Emphasis on decoding words and interpreting words from picture clues or repeated reading

- High Level of picture/photo support
- Large Print
- Exaggerated spacing between words
- Repetitive, predictable and/or rhyming text
- Very little punctuation
- Simple, short stories

Level B: Emergent

Middle of Kindergarten –First Grade, Guided Reading Levels E-H

Emphasis on decoding and “sight” words

- Continued high level of picture/photo support
- Some repetition and/or rhyming
- More words on each page, more high frequency “sight words” used
- More complex sentences
- Use of inflected endings (-s, -ed, -ing)
- Wider variety of punctuation

Level C: Early Fluent

Middle of First Grade – Middle Second Grade, Guided Reading Levels H-K

Some decoding, transition to focus on comprehension

- Still some picture/photo support
- Words may be on every page
- More complex story structure
- More episodes and action in the story
- Multi-syllabic words

Level D: Fluent

Second – Third Grade, Guided Reading Levels J-M

Emphasis on comprehension and expression

- Early chapter books
- More challenging ideas and themes
- More literacy structures and genres
- More complex vocabulary



Ready?
Set.
Read!

For more information about how the Pikes Peak Library District leveled their books for beginning readers, contact Jennifer Roy jroy@ppld.org or Nancy Maday nmaday@ppld.org