

Choosing the Right Book

For recommendations, look at book displays, let titles catch your eye, do the 5-finger check, read favorite authors, or books recommended by others.

Enjoy!

Easy Books

- 📖 I know a lot about the subject or have read books by the author.
- 📖 I can read all the words smoothly, with expressions, and quickly.
- 📖 The font is the right size for me.
- 📖 I understand every word.
- 📖 I have a picture in my head or a movie in my mind about what I've read.
- 📖 My thinking comes easy.
- 📖 I finish the book quickly.
- 📖 I remember what I have read and can retell the story or important information.

Just Right Books

- 📖 I know some things about the subject or have read books by the author.
- 📖 On a "test drive", I can read most of the words (pass the 5-finger rule).
- 📖 I understand what I am reading. Sometimes, I reread, though.
- 📖 The font is the right size and there is enough space between the lines of text.
- 📖 I can read pretty smoothly. My reading rate is just right- not too slow and not too fast.
- 📖 I can figure out tricky words and still get the meaning of the text.
- 📖 I remember what I have read and can retell the story or important information.
- 📖 I enjoy reading.

Books That Are Too Hard

- 📖 I don't know much about the subject.
- 📖 On a "test drive", many words are too hard for me to sound out (fail the 5-finger test).
- 📖 I don't understand what I am reading, and I cannot tell someone what I read.
- 📖 My reading is choppy.
- 📖 The font size and spaces between lines of text are too small.
- 📖 There are too many words on the page.
- 📖 I get bored and don't pay attention.
- 📖 My reading rate is very slow.
- 📖 I make excuses about why I am not reading.
- 📖 The sentences are very long.
- 📖 I don't enjoy reading.

It is essential for students to choose a book that is just right for them. Below are some guidelines to help your child choose a just right book.

Step #1: Browsing

- Look at the cover.
- Who is the author? Is it a familiar author or series?
- Read the chapter titles
- What is the font size?
- How many pictures are there?
- How many pages?

Step #2: Five Finger Rule

- Open to the middle of the book.
- Read three pages.
- Count the words you don't know on these pages.
- If there are more than five, find another book and start over.
- If there are fewer than five, go on to Step #3.

Step #3: Comprehension

- Can I easily tell someone what this passage is about?
- Is this book interesting to me?
- Was my reading smooth?

Step #4: Choosing

- If you answered yes to the questions in step 3, continue reading the book.
- If not, find another book and start over.
- Be ready to explain why you think this is a just right book for you!