

# Reading Routines at Home

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade

Coates E. S. 2020

Dear Parents,

It is a great honor to partner with you in your child's education! Central to your child's education is the ability to read and think critically. In our Home-School Compact, crafted through a series of parent/teacher meetings, we agreed that:

- Parents would promote reading skills and establish a reading routine for their children at home.
- Teachers and staff would teach reading skills and provide families with resources and support for promoting literacy at home.

This short guide was created to help you understand what reading looks like in sixth grade and provides strategies for creating reading routines at home.

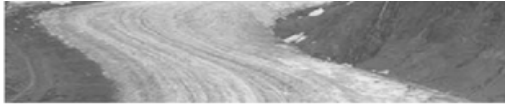
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- Identify Books 3<sup>rd</sup> graders should be reading at the beginning of the year
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- What if you're already reading above grade level?



At the **beginning of 3rd grade**, your child should be reading a level 28/M book. Here is an example from *Reading A–Z*.



Glaciers are like massive rivers of ice.

### Introduction

The earth's surface constantly changes. Wind, water, and heat wear down mountains and crack stone. But some of the most dramatic changes are caused by giant pieces of ice and rock called glaciers.

Glaciers move slowly over the land. They carve out cliffs, valleys, and **prairies** as they go. When glaciers melt, they leave behind lakes, rivers, and hills of soil and boulders.

Fiction: The story has multiple characters and events.

Nonfiction: has multiple sections.

Students should read fluently – sentence by sentence instead of word by word.

Find more books at this level at

<https://www.the-best-childrens-books.org/guided-reading-levels.html>

### What if my child starts the year below this level?

Your teacher will work with your child to address the necessary skills to improve his/her reading level.

#### At home:

Encourage a love of reading at home! Remember, they haven't met the benchmark **yet**, but they will!

Read to your child every night and listen to your child read every night.

Give your child 30 minutes to read silently every day and then talk about the books.

When your child makes an error, use these prompts.

- Look for a spelling pattern you know to figure out the word.
  - does it end with 'e' then it's a long vowel.
  - eigh – says "A"
- Chunk the word into parts you know.
  - Swimming = swim + ing
  - Different = diff + er + ent

At the **end of 3<sup>rd</sup> grade**, your child should be reading a level 38/P book. Here is an example from The Worst School Year Ever by Barbara Robinson.

**U**nless you're somebody like Huckleberry Finn, the first day of school isn't too bad. Most kids, by then, are bored with summer and itchy from mosquito bites and poison ivy and nothing to do. Your sneakers are all worn out and you can't get new ones till school starts and your mother is sick and tired of yelling at you to pick things up and you're sick and tired of picking the same things up.

Plus, the first day of school is only half a day for kids.

My little brother, Charlie, once asked my mother what the teachers do for the rest of the day.

"They get things ready—books and papers and lessons."

"That's not what Leroy Herdman says," Charlie told her.

Chapters are longer and more complex.

Students should be able to summarize the story or nonfiction – picking out the important events and information and leaving out minor details.

Find more books at this level at

<https://www.the-best-childrens-books.org/guided-reading-levels.html>

**How do I find out my child's reading level?**

Ask your child's teacher.

**Should s/he only read books on this level?**

No. It is important to read easier books to improve reading rate and expression. It is also important to read harder books when the topic really interests your child.

**What if my child is already reading this level?**

If your child is reading above this level, your teacher will work with your child to continue to grow as a reader. At home, encourage your child to continue reading novels, series, and nonfiction.

## **At School, we follow the Reading Workshop Model**

- Appropriate Level
  - Guided Reading
  - Teacher Modeling
  - Literacy and Test Taking Practice
  - Spelling and Grammar Instruction
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## **At Home - Establish a Reading Routine**

- Make reading a fun, enjoyable part of every day!
- Provide a quiet place to read independently for 30-40 minutes a day to build reading stamina. (No distractions). It's OK to read books online. See the Coates Reading website for good online options.
- Choose an interesting book to read together
- Encourage your child to read to a pet, stuffed animal or younger sibling to improve fluency!
- Talk about what they are reading.



- Why did the author write this book?
- What message does the author want you to learn?
- What did you like about the book? Why did you choose it?
- Do you agree with what the characters did? Why?
- What was the most interesting thing you learned?  
(nonfiction)