

Reading Routines at Home

4th 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.

Contents

- Identify Books 4th graders should be reading at the beginning of the year
- Identify Books 4th graders should be reading at the end of the year
- How to get there?
 - What we do at school
 - What you can do at home (your routine)
- What if you're already reading above grade level?



At the **beginning of 4th grade**, your child should be reading a level 38/P book. Here is an example from The Worst School Year Ever by Barbara Robinson.

Unless 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.

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?

First, do not stress or make your child feel bad if they are not reading on grade level. This often leads to a child shutting down and avoiding reading. So what can you do?

At Home:

- Encourage a love of reading by finding books your child can enjoy on his or her own and that you can enjoy together.
- Immerse your child in literacy by reading to them and with them, and by listening to them read. Remember, even if they aren't reading on grade level **yet**, they will eventually be able to, and may even surpass it, by discovering the joy of books and by practicing a little bit every day in a quiet environment.

At the **end of 4th grade**, your child should be reading a level 40/S book. Here is an example from Poppy by Avi.

A THIN CRESCENT MOON, high in the sky, shed faint white light over Dimwood Forest. Stars glowed. Breezes full of ripe summer fragrance floated over nearby meadow and hill. Dimwood itself, veiled in darkness, lay utterly still.

At the very edge of this forest stood an old charred oak on which sat a great horned owl. The owl's name was Mr. Ocax, and he looked like death himself.

Mr. Ocax's eyes—flat upon his face—were round and yellow with large ebony pupils that enabled him to see as few other creatures could. Moonlight—even faint moonlight—was as good as daylight for him.

With his piercing gaze, Mr. Ocax surveyed the lands he called his own, watching for the comings and goings of the creatures he considered his subjects—and his dinners. He

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

Figurative language – flowery, poetic language can be used.

Find more books for text level 40/S at

<https://www.goodreads.com/shelf/show/level-s>

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 chapter books, graphic novels, 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 40-50 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.
- Read to your child daily.
- Talk about what they are reading.



- Describe the characters. How and why do they grow and change throughout the story?
- What was the problem? How was it solved?
- Describe the plot of the story as a journey.
- What was the moral of the story?
- What was the most interesting thing you learned? (nonfiction)

When your child makes an error, use these prompts:

- Look for a spelling pattern you know to figure out the word.
 - eigh – says “A”, igh says “I”
 - tion is a word ending that says “shun”
- Use prefixes and suffixes and root words to break the word up
 - preexisting = pre + exist +ing
 - unreliable = un + rely + able