

Reading Routines at Home

5th 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 5th graders should be reading at the beginning of the year
- Identify Books 5th 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 5th grade**, your child should be reading a level 40 book. Below is an excerpt from Poppy by Avi, which is a level 40 book.

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.

Chapter books and novels or informational text

Language is used to set the scene instead of pictures. There is a lot of information in each chapter for the student to remember.

Find more books at this level on the website
<https://www.goodreads.com/shelf/show/level-s>

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.
- Remember, your teacher will be working with your child to address the necessary skills to improve his/her reading level as well.
- Let your child choose ANY book to read. Graphic novels (comics), magazines, sports trivia, newspapers, and books all help engage students who are reluctant to read.

At the **end of 5th grade**, your child should be reading a level 50 book. Below is an excerpt from Esperanza Rising by Pam Munoz Ryan, a level 50 book.

1924

“Our land is alive, Esperanza,” said Papa, taking her small hand as they walked through the gentle slopes of the vineyard. Leafy green vines draped the arbors and the grapes were ready to drop. Esperanza was six years old and loved to walk with her papa through the winding rows, gazing up at him and watching his eyes dance with love for the land.

“This whole valley breathes and lives,” he said, sweeping his arm toward the distant mountains that guarded them. “It gives us the grapes and then they welcome us.” He gently touched a wild tendril that reached into the row, as if it had been waiting to shake his hand. He picked up a handful of earth and studied it. “Did you know that when

Language is often flowery (poetic), abstract, or can contain various dialects.

Many new vocabulary words- the student must use context clues and background knowledge for comprehension

Often historical or distant settings so the reader must understand different customs and ways of speaking

Find more books at this level on the website

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

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 is my child 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 choose chapter books, novels, and nonfiction. At this point, encourage any reading that interests your child.

At School, we follow the Reading Workshop Model

- Appropriate Level
 - Guided Reading
 - Teacher Modeling
 - Book Clubs
 - Comprehension Practice
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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 50-60 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 a variety of genres:
 - **Fiction:** fantasy, science fiction, realistic fiction, historical fiction-novels and short stories
 - **Nonfiction:** magazine or newspaper articles, websites, biographies, informational books
 - **Poetry**
- Good books should spark conversation. Ask your child:
 - If you were in the story, what would your next step be?
 - What causes the character to change?
 - Explain the story line – draw the plot on a plot mountain

