

# Understanding Guided Reading Levels, Lexile Score, Accelerated Reader, and DRA

## Guided Reading Levels

### *What are Guided Reading Levels?*

Guided Reading Levels are more complex than Lexile Scores. They measure length of book, layout, plot, repetition, illustrations, vocabulary, characters, setting, content and theme.

### *How do I find Guided Reading Levels?*

Search for book titles at Scholastic Book Wizard (<http://www.scholastic.com/bookwizard/> AND bookmarked on our Kids Computers). Find Guided Reading Level, Grade Level Equivalent and Lexile Score.

## Lexile Scores

### *What is a Lexile score?*

Teachers may refer to Lexile scores when asking students to read books. A Lexile score measures a book's difficulty level on a scale from low to high. A low Lexile score means a book will be easier to comprehend.

### *How do I find Lexile scores?*

Use the Lexile find-a-book website (<http://www.lexile.com/fab/>)

## Accelerated Reader

### *What is Accelerated Reader?*

Accelerated Reader (AR) is a program schools may purchase to monitor reading comprehension. Teachers may request that students read books from an AR book list in order to take a quiz about the book.

AR book lists are organized by readability level for books, using a formula similar to a Lexile score.

### *How do I find Accelerated Reader book lists?*

Start by finding your school website, then look for AR book lists used by your school.

Use the AR book finder (<http://www.arbookfind.com/UserType.aspx>)

## DRA

### *What is DRA?*

The Developmental Reading Assessment (DRA) is an individually administered assessment of a child's reading capabilities. Teachers use DRA testing to identify a student's reading level, accuracy, fluency, and comprehension.

### *How do I find DRA Levels?*

Search for book titles at Scholastic Book Wizard (<http://www.scholastic.com/bookwizard/> AND bookmarked on our Kids Computers). Find Guided Reading Level, Grade Level Equivalent and Lexile Score.

## Finding a “Good Fit” or “Just Right” Book

*Is your child having a problem choosing a Just Right Book? Use some of these strategies to choose a book.*

### **Too Easy Books**

Ask yourself these questions:

1. Have you read it lots of times before?
2. Do you understand the story (text) very well?
3. Do you know and understand almost every word?
4. Can you read it smoothly?

If you are answering YES, this book is probably *Too Easy Book* for you. Have fun reading it! Too easy books are great for practicing fluency (reading smoothly)... even if the book is memorized! Too Easy books are considered independent readers.

### **Just Right Books**

Ask yourself these questions:

1. Is this book new to you?
2. Do you understand what you’ve read so far?
3. Are there just a few words per page you don’t know?
4. When you read are some places smooth and some choppy?
5. Can someone help you with this book? Who?

If you answering YES, this book is probably a *Just Right Book* for you. Go ahead and learn from it. Just rights are considered instructional – with just a few words to work on! They can use the words on the page to help them figure out the unknown words.

### **Too Hard Books**

Ask yourself these questions:

1. Are there more than a few words on a page you don’t know?
2. Are you confused about what is happening in most of this book?
3. When you read, does it sound pretty choppy (like a robot)?
4. Is everyone else busy and unable to help you?

If you are answering YES, this book is probably a *Too Hard Book* for you. Give it another try later or have an adult read it to you! Too hard books are considered frustrational (you can’t learn anything if you’re too frustrated by the book!)