Finding “Just-Right” Books

When reading independently, it’s important that students read books they are interested in, but it’s also important that they read books that are on their level- not too easy and not too hard- to help them advance as a reader. We have talked about and practiced this many times in class, but I know some students may still need your assistance in identifying “just right” books to read at home (to fulfill the requirements of their Reading Log as additional reading they choose to do). It may be helpful to have your child read the first three sentences of the book aloud to you. If he/she gets stuck more than once, it’s probably too hard. If he/she doesn’t get stuck at all, it’s probably too easy.

You may also want to take advantage of Scholastic’s Book Leveling Wizard on their website. You can use it to find the reading level of many different book titles. Below are directions of how to access it. I have also put a link to it on our classroom website (keifer2.weeby.com) under “Internet Links for Parents.”

-Go to [www.scholastic.com](http://www.scholastic.com)

-Click on “Teachers” and then “Book Wizard.”

-At the top left corner you will see “Your Reading Level System.”

-Choose “DRA” if it is not already chosen.

-You can use the “Quick Search” tool to look up a specific title.

-You can use the “Leveled” search to find multiple titles on your child’s reading level and narrow the search based on your child’s interests.

-You can also use the “Book Alike” tool to find a book that is similar to one your child likes at either the same, easier, or more difficult reading level.

At this point, your child is reading independently at a DRA level of \_\_\_\_\_. Some books listed on the Scholastic site will not have DRA information. Below are some popular series of books at different levels. If your child is having trouble finding books that are a “good fit,” they would be a good place to start.

8 and 10 (expected levels for 2nd quarter of 1st grade)

Welcome Books (Non-fiction)

Puppy Mudge

12 and 14 ( expected levels for 3rd quarter of 1st grade)

Biscuit

Rookie Read-Abouts (Non-fiction)

Let’s Read About… (Biographies)

16 and 18 (expected levels for end of 1st grade/beg. of 2nd)

Young Cam Jansen

Froggy

Henry and Mudge

Books by Mo Willems

20 and 24 (expected levels for 2nd quarter of 2nd grade)

Cam Jansen

Clifford

Franklin

Frog and Toad

Nate the Great

Ready Freddy Reader

28 (expected level for end of 2nd grade/beg. of 3rd)

Black Lagoon

Dinosaur Cove

Horrible Harry

Jake Drake

Junie B. Jones

Magic Treehouse

Puppy Place

Rainbow Fairies

Ready Freddy

30 (expected level for 2nd quarter of 3rd grade)

A-Z Mysteries

Flat Stanley

Secrets of Droon