



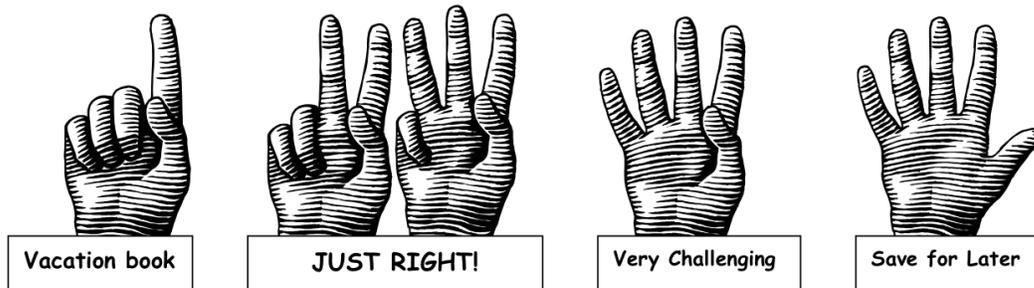
NOT SURE HOW TO PICK THE RIGHT BOOK?

HERE ARE SOME HELPFUL TIPS...

How do I pick a good book for an elementary school reader?

When looking for a book for first through fourth graders, the goal is to pick a "Goldilocks" book...not too hard, not too easy...just right. Start with a book for the grade level your child is entering and work up from there. For example, if your child is entering second grade in August, help your child pick a book at a second grade level or above.

Have your child read a page or two from the book out loud to you. If your child is stumbling over words or mispronouncing vocabulary, that book may be too hard. If your child is breezing through, that book may be too easy. Most importantly, if your child wants to read the book, then that book is just right! Try the "five finger rule"....



The 5-Finger Rule for choosing a "Just Right" book

The 5-Finger Rule for choosing a "Just Right" book only helps to evaluate student's ability to read the words. In order to use this strategy, have your child open a book to the middle and begin reading. For each word the child doesn't know, have them put up one finger. If at the end of the page you have:

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| 5 or more fingers up | - too hard and challenging, save for later book |
| 4 fingers up | - very challenging |
| 2-3 fingers up | - just right |
| 0-1 fingers up | - too easy, vacation book |

This strategy does not check a child's comprehension level. Thus, as a parent you should check that your child understands the story by asking questions about the book. Some sample questions are:

- Who was in the story?
- What happened in the story?
- Where did the story take place?

How do I help my middle schooler pick a good summer reading book?

The real challenge for middle school readers is finding a book that is interesting but also age-appropriate. You can search the Internet for book suggestions for your child's grade level, for example, search "summer reading list for middle school" or the website: www.common sense media.org . This website also provides a summary of books and movies and rates them for content appropriateness.

How do I know a book's reading level?

To determine a book's reading level, check out the website www.ARbookfinder.com .

You can also search the Internet for book suggestions for your child's grade level, for example, search "summer reading list for second grade." Remember to avoid books listed on your child's summer reading letter which the teacher will be reading with students this year.

Can my child take an AR test on books read over the summer?

At EDPS, children in kindergarten through the fourth grades participate in Accelerated Reader (AR). Yes, AR tests may be taken on books read over the summer. The words will count towards the total words read for the 2018-19 school year. The books may or may not count towards individual classroom AR goals. Check with your child's teacher at *Year in Preview* (which is held in the evening during the first week of school) to determine your child's AR requirements.

Helpful Websites:

www.ARbookfinder.com: This website offers book suggestions and Accelerated Reader book levels.

www.common sense media.org: This website offers book suggestions and rates books and movies for content appropriateness. It's a great resource!

www.mensaforkids.org: Choose "Excellence in Reading" and scroll down for grade level book lists.