

Characteristics of Texts

Stages of readers->	Pre-emergent	Emergent	Early	Transitional	Self-Extending	Advanced
Fountas/Pinnell		A-B	C-G	H-M	N-S	T-Z
Format		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consistent print placement, completed on one page• Well-defined spaces• 1-2 lines of print	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Varied placement of text• Sentences not always completed on one page	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Multiple sentences per page• Beginning chapter books• Some pages/ books with text only• Smaller print size• More variation in print fonts		Wide variety of texts, representing a range of genre and purposes
Illustrations		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strong picture support for messages and concepts• Clear illustrations, with little distracting detail• Picture support for every page of text	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Moderate support for messages	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Low to moderate support• Extends text• Variety in graphics in non-fiction• Picture captions with important information		
Language Structure		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Natural language• Memorable or repetitive patterns• Short, simple sentences	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Varied sentence patterns• Some complex sentences• Dialogue• Blend of oral and book language	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Literary language• Character development through dialogue• Complex language structures, varying in length• Details and descriptive/ figurative language that is important to understanding the plot		
Vocabulary		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Familiar experiences and concepts• High frequency words• Mostly one-syllable words	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Familiar objects and actions• High frequency words• More descriptive language• Some literary language• More varied verb forms	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sophisticated vocabulary, some unexplained in text• Content specific words		
Story Context		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Familiar themes, experiences, concepts and actions• Predictable, simple stories• Focused on a single idea	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Longer stories• Some fantasy• Character development	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Complex story structure• Varied themes• Different points of view included• Variety of text genre, organization and topics• Require sustained interest• Multiple episodes for one plot• Abstract, complex and expanded plots• Multiple characters		