

# CHOOSE YOUR BEGINNING READER!

The colored dots on books in the library's **Beginning Reader collection** can be a helpful guide as you choose books that your child will enjoy. Books in this collection contain controlled vocabulary, supportive illustrations, and clear story lines that are perfect for beginning readers, whether they are just starting out or are ready for the challenge of a short chapter book. The dots reflect the stages through which children progress as they become independent readers.

## Red = Early Pre-Emergent Readers

- Books at this level have a high degree of picture support, large print, repetitive patterns/vocabulary, predictable text, wide letter spacing, familiar concepts, and minimal text on the page.  
**Levels A, B, C**

## Blue = Pre-Emergent Readers

- Books at this level have controlled, repeated vocabulary; large print; wide letter spacing; familiar concepts; and longer sentences.  
**Levels D, E**

## Green = Emergent Readers

- Books at this level have more lines of text and more complex sentences, but they still have repetition of vocabulary, larger print, and text spacing.  
**Levels F, G**

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## Yellow = Early Fluent Readers

- Books at this level have smaller print, more lines of print per page, more complex sentence structure, more advanced vocabulary, and familiar topics but greater depth.  
**Levels H, I, J**

## Orange = Fluent Readers

- Books at this level contain more challenging ideas; extended episodes and actions; greater variation in sentence pattern; and more complex, richer vocabulary and longer sentences.  
**Levels K, L, M**

**Double Dots** indicate a nonfiction book.

Due to an increase in subject-specific vocabulary and more complex sentence structure, it is common for children to drop a level or two when they move from reading fiction to nonfiction titles.

These categories of leveled books were modified from the West Bloomfield Township (MI) Public Library's **First Grade: Ready, Set, READ!** materials (part of its [growupreading.org](http://growupreading.org) initiative) and include Fountas & Pinnell reading levels.

Colored dots are only a guideline. Fountas & Pinnell letter levels are meant to be used by teachers for instructional purposes. Background knowledge, interest, and motivation allow children to read books from a variety of levels, regardless of their instructional level.