



Crimson Dragon Publishing Readability Guideline

Written by Dawn D. Clark, Editor, Children and Young Adult

GRADE	AGE	PAGES	MAX WORDS	WORDS/PAGE	SENTENCE LENGTH AND TYPE	GRAMMATICAL CONTENT
PreK	3-4	16-32		2-6	2-6 No punctuation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simple narrative with minimal dialogue • Present tense only • Picture Books
K	5-6	32-48	150	10	2-8 words Keep on one line	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short single narrative • Present and simple past tenses • Comparative adjectives & everyday vocabulary • Simple dialogue • One dimensional characters • Pictures support concepts.
1	6-7	48	750	40 3-6 lines	15 words Varied length and structure Split lines for upper level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Single narrative or Simple Chapters • Full Range of Tenses • Careful use of idiom • Abstract concepts supported by pictures
2	7-8	48-72	2000	60 10-15 lines	15-20 Split across page	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simple episodic narrative in chapters or linked stories • Compare & contrast, problem and solution • Simple irony and simple inference • Explain special terms • Some unfamiliar situations/settings • Several concepts in one picture
3	8-9	64-96	3000-5000	120 Full page	Up to 30 Varied length	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full grammatical range • Episodic narrative with temporal shifts • Assume some technical and mainstream knowledge • More complex situations • Some inferred characteristics based on action, thoughts, and dialogue • Diverse perspectives • One or less illustrations per chapter



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4	9-10	Up to 128	20,00-40,000		Complex with prepositional phrases, introductory clauses, lists of nouns, verbs or adjectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extensive use of metaphors, idioms, similes • Elaborate plots, including subplots • Some long strings of unassigned dialogue • Complex characters • Situations requiring real or vicarious experience • Settings outside reader time/space • Some words uncommon in oral language • Some illustrations
5	10-11	150+	60,000-80,000	250-300	Many prefixes, suffixes, etc Multi-syllable proper names Wide range of declarative, imperative, and interrogative sentences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Content appealing to adolescents • Complex symbolism and full use of literary devices • Alternative interpretations and high inference • Socially mature problems such as war, good v evil, hardship • Settings/situations well beyond personal experience • Multidimensional themes and critical thought including social awareness, relationships, and the human condition • Dialectal, archaic, and non-English words • Little to no illustrations • Vocabulary and Social Maturity increase with age
6	11-12		70,000-300,000		Full complexity Varied length	
7	12-13					
8	13-14					
9	14-15					
10	15-16					
11	16-17					
12	17-18					

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