

Your **LUCKY** Reader Now

Grades 2-3

September 2004

Stock Your Home with Just-Right Reads

Leveling systems help you match your reader to "just-right" books that provide the perfect amount of challenge. The key is to know what level your child is reading at and what type of books interest him.

Ask your child's teacher about his current reading level, and check his progress every few months. His teacher can provide a score based on Lexile levels, guided reading levels, or grade level. The grade levels are usually the easiest guide for you to use.



Grade-level reading equivalencies are numerical scores. For example: **World Discover History Reader: North American Explorers** is a 2.0. If your second grader reads on level, he will be able to read this book with little difficulty at the start of the year. **Junie B. First Grader: Cheater Pants** is a 2.5. If your second grader progresses at the usual pace, he'll be able to read this by the middle of the school year.

To determine the grade level of a book, check the back cover. Grade level scores are often noted in the lower left as "RL." If there's no "RL," ask your child's teacher or a librarian. Your Book Club teacher can provide the RL for titles in the monthly flyer.

Expose your reader to books from a range of levels.

- Read **to** him — occasionally choose books a grade or two above his reading level to boost vocabulary and comprehension skills.
- Read **with** him — choose slightly challenging books; he should be able to read and comprehend these with just a little guidance.
- When he reads **on his own** — provide books on his reading level or just below to build confidence and fluency.

See our booklists at www.scholastic.com/read for recommended titles that match your child's interests and skills.

Ask an Expert

How do I know if a book is too hard for my child to read on her own?

Whenever possible, choose books that match the grade-based reading level recommended by her teacher. When in doubt, try the **five finger test**. Open the book to a page in the middle, and have your child start reading. Each time she misses a word, have her fold down one finger. If she has all five fingers down by the time she gets to the end of a page, the book is probably too hard.

Meet Our Expert: *Francie Alexander has taught at various levels: kindergarten, elementary school, and college. She currently develops materials at Scholastic that help kids learn to read and teachers teach reading.*

Have a question about reading? Find advice at www.scholastic.com/read.

Get **Your Lucky Reader Now** Every Month

at www.scholastic.com/read

Bringing You the Best Books

From the tons of titles available, Scholastic Book Club editors choose the best ones to fill your monthly flyer — a mix of award winners, bestsellers, new picks, and favorites you loved as a child. Choose from fiction, nonfiction, humor, fantasy, and reference books to find the perfect fit for your reader.

Daily Reading Fun

Spread books all around your house — and even outdoors! Leave nature titles on the back porch; a kid-friendly cookbook in the kitchen; and on top of the TV, joke books and just-for-fun reads.

Did You Know?

September 19-25 is National Dog Week — the perfect time to catch up on canine tales like **Puppy Patrol: Homeward Bound**.



Beyond Books

Make a one-of-a-kind gift for Grandparents' Day, September 12! Have your child create a memory book with illustrations, letters, stories, and picture collages that will show her grandparents why they mean so much.



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Checklist: Reading Milestones

Use this list to help you choose the right books and track your child's progress.

When she's reading at a grade level of 2.0 to 2.9, your child can:

- Sound out new words
- Read simple sentences independently
- Comprehend basic plots and characters as she reads

Parent Tip: Let her try transitional books on her own; read early chapter books together.

- Read with expression
- Know when she makes a mistake
- Recognize multi-letter syllables in words (i.e., ti - ger)

Parent Tip: Let her try early chapter books on her own; read chapter books together.

When he's reading at a grade level of 3.0 to 3.9, your child can:

- Try to figure out a word from the context
- Read full pages of text with short paragraphs
- Sound out multi-syllabic words

Parent Tip: Let him try chapter books on his own; read advanced chapter books together.

- Read quickly and accurately
- Relate what he reads to his own experiences
- Read for information and take notes

Parent Tip: He's ready to try advanced chapter books on his own — but keep reading together.

Books I've Read

Create and hang a poster to track the books your child reads.

Date	Title	Author/ Illustrator	★★★ Loved it! ★★ Liked it ★ Didn't like it	IT WAS:
				✓✓✓ A Bit Hard ✓✓ Kind of Easy ✓ Very Easy
			★★★	✓✓
			★	✓✓✓

Editors' Pick of the Month

Available in your *Lucky September Book Club* flyer.

Spiderwick Chronicles: The Ironwood Tree
by Tony DiTerlizzi and Holly Black



Why we chose it:

Fantasy fans will be spellbound by this fourth title in the Grace children's quest to protect a book about the faerie world. A can't resist series that's perfect for reluctant readers.

RL: 3.3

Favorites to Fit Your Child's Reading Level:

- Johnny Appleseed **RL:** 1.4
- Ready, Freddy! Tooth Trouble **RL:** 1.8
- World Discovery History Reader: North American Explorers **RL:** 2.0
- Adam Sharp: Operation Spy School **RL:** 2.0
- The Kids of Einstein Elementary: The Last Dinosaur **RL:** 2.2
- Junie B., First Grader: Cheater Pants **RL:** 2.5
- Junie B., First Grader: Shipwrecked **RL:** 2.5
- The Magic Tree House Research Guide: Ancient Greece and the Olympics **RL:** 2.6
- Happy Haunting, Amelia Bedelia **RL:** 2.7
- Teach Us, Amelia Bedelia **RL:** 2.8
- A to Z Mysteries: The Unwilling Umpire **RL:** 2.8
- Geronimo Stilton: Attack of the Bandit Cats **RL:** 3.0
- Puppy Patrol: Homeward Bound **RL:** 3.1
- Let's Ride, Paul Revere! **RL:** 3.2
- Stanley, Flat Again! **RL:** 3.4
- Freckle Juice **RL:** 3.6
- Lizzie McGuire Mysteries: Get a Clue! **RL:** 4.1
- Ramona the Pest **RL:** 4.1
- Mr. Popper's Penguins **RL:** 4.9

About Your Lucky Reader Now

Your *Lucky Reader Now* is produced by the editorial staff at Scholastic.com. For ideas on how to foster reading at home, age-appropriate booklists, and more, visit **All About Reading**. Go to: www.scholastic.com/read.



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