

# Your SeeSaw Reader Now

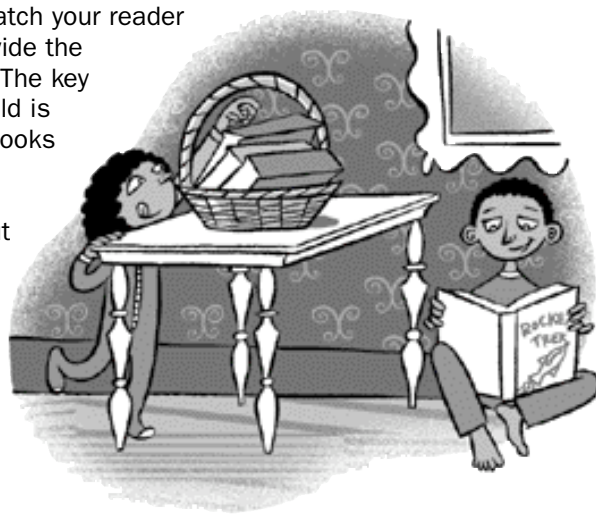
Grades K-1

September 2004

## Fill 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: ***Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus!*** is a 1.0. If your first grader reads on level, he will be able to read this book at the start of the year with very few mistakes. ***I Am an Apple*** is a 1.5. If your first grader progresses at the usual pace, he'll be ready for 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.

- Reading **to** him – occasionally choose books a grade or two above his reading level to boost vocabulary and comprehension skills.
- Reading **with** him – choose slightly challenging books; he should be able to read and comprehend these with just a little guidance.
- When he is ready to read **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](http://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. Also try leveled series such as Scholastic Readers; once you find the level that is right for her, any title in the series at the same level should be a fit. 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 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](http://www.scholastic.com/read).

Get **Your SeeSaw Reader** Now Every Month

at [www.scholastic.com/read](http://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 *Clifford Big Red Reader: Time for School*.



## Beyond Books

Make a one-of-a-kind gift for Grandparents' Day, September 12! Have your child create a memory book with illustrations and picture collages that show her grandparents why they mean so much. Below each picture, help her write a brief sentence or word.



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[www.scholastic.com/read](http://www.scholastic.com/read)

# Checklist: Reading Milestones

Track your reader's progress this year as she masters these skills and advances to new reading levels.

## If he is reading at a grade level of up to 1.0, your child can:

- Know all letters and their corresponding sounds
- Realize that words are composed of letters and sounds
- Know words and sentences are read left to right
- Retell a story after reading it

*Parent Tip: He can enjoy simple picture books on his own; read easy beginning readers together.*

## If she is reading at a grade level of 1.1 to about 1.8, your child can:

- Recognize familiar words ("are," "you," "daddy")
- Sound out new words with help
- Use picture clues to figure out new words
- Point out the main idea in a story

*Parent Tip: Let her try easy beginning readers on her own; read beginning readers together.*

## If he is reading at a grade level of 1.8 to 2.5+, your child can:

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

*Parent Tip: Let him try beginning readers on his own; read chapter books together.*

# My Reading Journal

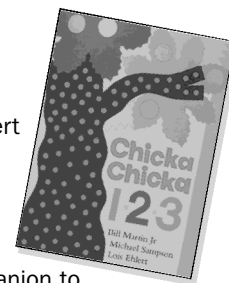
Create and hang a poster to track the books your child reads.

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

# Editors' Pick of the Month

Available in your **SeeSaw September Book Club** flyer.

*Chicka Chicka 123*  
by Bill Martin Jr. and  
Michael Samson,  
illustrated by Lois Ehlert



### Why we chose it:

Rhythm and rollicking letters make way for numbers in this companion to the family favorite, *Chicka Chicka Boom Boom*. A book that turns reading and learning into play! **RL: 1.9**

## Favorites to Fit Your Child's Reading Level:

- Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus! **RL: 1.0**
- On Noah's Ark **RL: 1.4**
- I Am an Apple **RL: 1.5**
- Robin Hill School: The Playground Problem **RL: 1.8**
- Clifford Big Red Reader: Time for School **RL: 1.8**
- The Magic School Bus Takes a Moonwalk **RL: 1.8**
- Alphabet Mystery **RL: 1.9**
- Mister Seahorse **RL: 1.9**
- Hopscotch Hill School: Hallie's Horrible Handwriting **RL: 2.1**
- How I Became a Pirate **RL: 2.3**
- A Pocket Full of Kisses **RL: 2.3**
- See More Readers: Fighting Fires **RL: 2.3**
- Diary of a Worm **RL: 2.4**
- Ready, Freddy!: Tooth Trouble **RL: 2.6**
- Reese's Pieces: Count by Tens **RL: 2.6**
- Junie B., First Grader: Cheater Pants **RL: 2.8**
- Leaves! Leaves! Leaves! **RL: 3.0**
- Hidden World: Human Body **RL: 3.1**
- Five Little Bats Flying in the Night **RL: 3.1**
- Duck for President **RL: 3.6**

### About Your SeeSaw Reader Now

Your SeeSaw 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](http://www.scholastic.com/read).



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