



Leveled Reading Series Leveling Guide

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Leveled Reading with the LeapPad®Technology

How does the LeapPad technology affect which books are “just-right” for students? The audio support integrated into LeapPad and Quantum Pad™ platforms means that students will likely succeed with interactive LeapPad books somewhat above their independent reading levels.

The educational reason behind students’ likely success with higher readability levels when reading LeapPad or Quantum Pad books is twofold:

1. **The LeapPad audio technology allows students to access words that they might otherwise not understand.**
Students’ listening vocabularies are much larger than their reading vocabularies in the primary and elementary grades. This means that students recognize and understand more words through listening than through reading words in print.
2. **The LeapPad audio technology allows students to access and understand text with more difficult syntax.**
Students’ listening fluency exceeds their reading fluency in the primary and elementary grades. This means that students understand difficult syntax (grammar, sentences, phrases...) more readily when listening to connected text than when reading text on a printed page.

The LeapPad and Quantum Pad books offer varying levels of audio support. We have included a summary of the specific audio support for each book along with the ATOS scores.

Therefore, on the LeapPad and Quantum Pad platforms, teachers may select books for independent reading that are near students’ instructional levels.

Why We Selected the ATOS™ System

LeapFrog SchoolHouse uses the ATOS (Advantage – TASA Open Standard) formula as the primary leveling system for the Leveled Reading books. We believe ATOS is the simplest and most reliable system by which to match students with “just-right” books:

- The ATOS formula provides a grade-level equivalent score, which is easy for both teachers and parents to understand.
- The ATOS formula is familiar to teachers as the system used with Accelerated Reader®
- The ATOS formula is an open-standard, so teachers can easily compare levels of LeapFrog SchoolHouse books with other books in their leveled reading libraries.
- Many readability formulas do not work well for nonfiction and low-level texts. The ATOS formula has addressed these flaws and works well with a range of text.
- The ATOS formula is based on statistics from actual student reading (over 30,000 students reading almost one million books), so it is a more reliable measure of how difficult a text is for students.

How to Interpret ATOS Book Scores

Within the ATOS system, a score is easy to understand because it refers to grade level. A score of 3.5 means that the difficulty of language in the book can be understood by readers with an average mid-3rd-grade reading ability. (When we use the term average we are referring to the national average.) Because the school year is nine months long, educators often refer to a book’s readability level in these terms. For example, a book with an ATOS score of 3.5 would be appropriate for an average student in the fifth month of the 3rd-grade school year.

Criteria for the ATOS Formula

The ATOS formula is a readability score, or a measure of the difficulty of the text that appears in a book. The ATOS formula is based on three factors:

1. Average words per sentence
2. Average grade-level of words
3. Characters per word

The ATOS formula tells us roughly whether a student CAN read a book. Other characteristics tell us if a student WILL read the book and whether he or she will enjoy it. These other characteristics include: student motivation, prior knowledge, theme, overall literary merit, difficulty of concepts, density and internal structure of text, typographic elements, use of illustrations, and more. Teachers and parents are the best judges about how well the qualitative aspects of a text will affect a student’s interest in a book and a student’s ability to understand it.

Leveled Reading Series

Book Title	ATOS Book Level	Contains Ability to Hear Individual Words Spoken	Contains Sentence Read-Aloud Support	Contains Audio Definitions for Difficult Vocabulary	Page Count	Total Word Count ²	Interest Level (Grades K–5) ¹
The Birthday Surprise	0.8	Yes	Yes	No	17	138	Grades K–2
Once Upon a Time	1.1	Yes	Yes	No	26	159	Grades K–2
Leap’s Friends From A to Z	1.9	Yes	Yes	No	24	261	Grades K–2
Disney’s Bounce, Tigger, Bounce	1.9	Yes	Yes	No	24	535	Grades K–2
Disney’s Pooh Gets Stuck	1.9	Yes	Yes	No	24	463	Grades K–2
Arthur’s Lost Puppy	1.9	Yes	Yes	Yes	26	410	Grades K–2
Tutter’s Tiny Trip	2.0	Yes	Yes	No	23	336	Grades K–2
Thomas The Really Useful Engine	2.0	Yes	Yes	No	20	95	Grades K–2
Bob and Lofty Save the Day	2.3	Yes	Yes	No	22	416	Grades K–2
Arthur Makes the Team	2.9	Yes	No	Yes	65	5,266	Grades 3–5
The Wind in the Willows	2.9	Yes	No	Yes	66	8,951	Grades 3–5
Magic Tree House: The Knight at Dawn	2.9	Yes	No	Yes	71	5,245	Grades 3–5
Arthur and the Lost Diary	3.2	Yes	No	Yes	63	4,960	Grades 3–5
Magic Tree House: Dinosaurs Before Dark	3.3	Yes	No	Yes	71	4,743	Grades 3–5
The Secret Garden	3.3	Yes	No	Yes	66	10,467	Grades 3–5
Favorite Fairy Tales	3.8 ³	Yes	No	Yes	66	10,355	Grades 3–5
Peter Pan	4.3	Yes	No	Yes	66	10,063	Grades 3–5
Treasure Island	4.6	Yes	No	Yes	66	10,984	Grades 3–5
The Wizard of Oz	5.1	Yes	No	Yes	66	11,363	Grades 3–5

¹ Interest levels were judged by LeapFrog SchoolHouse expert educators. Assessments based on theme of story, appropriateness of typography and illustrations, difficulty of concepts, and appropriateness of interactive games.

² Word counts do not include the title of the book. However, captions, labels, or other words important to understanding the text may be included, which may be subjective.

³ Because *Favorite Fairy Tales* is comprised of nine distinct stories, score of 3.8 reflects the average of all stories. Individual story scores are:

	ATOS Book Score
The Adventures of Tom Thumb	4.5
The Ugly Duckling	3.7
The Princess and the Pea	4.1
The Gingerbread Man	3.5
The Hare and the Tortoise	3.7
City Mouse and Country Mouse	2.6
Beauty and the Beast	4.2
The Frog Prince	3.5
The Emperor’s New Clothes	4.5

Alternative Leveling Systems

We at LeapFrog SchoolHouse know that teachers use a variety of leveling systems in their classrooms. Although ideological differences may exist among these approaches, there is a common thread that weaves through them all: To ensure that each child becomes a successful reader, we must match his or her evolving reading ability to corresponding levels of text. Therefore, we have provided this leveling guide as a service to educators. The leveling systems highlighted here represent those most frequently requested by our customers.

Fountas and Pinnell Guided Reading

According to Fountas and Pinnell, guided reading is a small-group instructional process in which a teacher works directly with a group of students who are at about the same reading level, and guides students to apply skills and strategies as they read. According to the Fountas and Pinnell system for leveling books, book levels are small gradients ranging from A to Z. Levels are assigned based on various factors, including book length, layout, illustrations, internal text structure, content, theme, and other characteristics.

The guided reading levels that follow have been assigned by expert educators based on the following resource guides, and have not been officially sanctioned by the authors:

- Irene C. Fountas and Gay Su Pinnell, *Matching Books to Readers, Using Leveled Books in Guided Reading K-3* (Heinemann, 1999)
- Irene C. Fountas and Gay Su Pinnell, *Guiding Readers and Writers Grades 3-6* (Heinemann, 2001)

The Birthday Surprise	H
Once Upon a Time	H
Leap's Friends From A to Z	I
Disney's Bounce, Tigger, Bounce	J
Disney's Pooh Gets Stuck	J
Tutter's Tiny Trip	J
Bob and Lofty Save the Day	J
Arthur's Lost Puppy	K
Thomas The Really Useful Engine	K
Arthur Makes the Team	M
Arthur and the Lost Diary	M
Magic Tree House: The Knight at Dawn	M
Magic Tree House: Dinosaurs Before Dark	M
The Wind in the Willows	N
The Secret Garden	O
Favorite Fairy Tales	O
Peter Pan	O
Treasure Island	O
The Wizard of Oz	O

Reading Recovery®

Reading Recovery is a short-term intervention program involving one-on-one tutoring for low-achieving first-graders. The program was developed by New Zealand educator and researcher Dr. Marie M. Clay. The Reading Recovery leveling system uses numbers organized along a fine gradient from 1 to 20. Levels are assigned based on a number of factors, including difficulty of language and text features, illustrations, appropriateness of theme, and other factors.

The Reading Recovery levels that follow have been assigned by a trained and certified Reading Recovery teacher and have not been officially sanctioned by Ohio State University or the Reading Recovery Council of North America.

The Birthday Surprise	Read Aloud 16 ¹
Leap's Friends From A to Z	Read Aloud 18 ¹
Once Upon a Time	12
Bob and Lofty Save the Day	15
Arthur's Lost Puppy	16
Disney's Bounce, Tigger, Bounce	18
Disney's Pooh Gets Stuck	18
Tutter's Tiny Trip	18
Arthur Makes the Team	20
Thomas The Really Useful Engine	24
Arthur and the Lost Diary	24
Magic Tree House: The Knight at Dawn	28
Magic Tree House: Dinosaurs Before Dark	28
Favorite Fairy Tales	28
Peter Pan	28
The Wind in the Willows	30
The Secret Garden	34
Treasure Island	34
The Wizard of Oz	34

¹ These books were judged to contain difficult vocabulary, but very simple sentence structures. They are intended to be read independently only after being listened to many times.

Lexile® Measures

A Lexile measure is a number indicating the reading demand of the text in terms of the semantic difficulty (vocabulary) and syntactic complexity (sentence length). The Lexile scale ranges from 200 to 1700 Lexiles, although actual Lexile measures can range from below zero to above 2000 Lexiles.

The Lexile measures that follow have been assigned and certified by MetaMetrics according to the full text Lexile standard.

The Birthday Surprise	BR ²
Once Upon a Time	BR ²
Disney's Pooh Gets Stuck	90
Bob and Lofty Save the Day	120
Disney's Bounce, Tigger, Bounce	130
Arthur's Lost Puppy	160
Magic Tree House: Dinosaurs Before Dark	170
Magic Tree House: The Knight at Dawn	230
Tutter's Tiny Trip	NC290 ³
Arthur Makes the Team	290
Thomas The Really Useful Engine	NC330 ³
Leap's Friends From A to Z	NC340 ³
Arthur and the Lost Diary	350
The Wind in the Willows	360
The Secret Garden	410
Peter Pan	640
Treasure Island	670
Favorite Fairy Tales	720
The Wizard of Oz	730

² A BR code indicates text that measures zero or below on the Lexile scale.

³ An NC code indicates that MetaMetrics has judged this book to contain a sentence length inconsistent with the developmental appropriateness of the text. Note that MetaMetrics assigns books assuming a text will be read independently without audio support. See ATOS scoring summary on page 3 for summary of the audio support offered by the LeapPad® and Quantum Pad™ interactive books.



Spache

The Spache readability formula is based on the number of sentences and the number of unfamiliar words (according to the Spache word list) from random samples. The Spache formula is applied only to books appropriate for students in grades 1 through 3.

The Spache scores listed below have been assigned and certified by Swinburne Readability Laboratory in Charlottesville, Virginia.

Disney's Bounce, Tigger, Bounce	1.6
Disney's Pooh Gets Stuck	1.8
The Birthday Surprise	1.8
Once Upon a Time	1.8
Bob and Lofty Save the Day	1.8
Arthur's Lost Puppy	2.1
Tutter's Tiny Trip	2.1
Arthur Makes the Team	2.2
Arthur and the Lost Diary	2.3
Thomas The Really Useful Engine	2.4
Leap's Friends From A to Z	3.1



Dale-Chall

The Dale-Chall readability formula is based on the number of sentences and the number of unfamiliar words (according to the Dale-Chall word list) from random samples. The Dale-Chall formula is applied only to books appropriate for students in grades 4 and up.

The Dale-Chall scores listed below have been assigned and certified by Swinburne Readability Laboratory in Charlottesville, Virginia.

Magic Tree House: Dinosaurs Before Dark	3.8
The Wind in the Willows	3.9
The Secret Garden	4.1
Peter Pan	4.4
Favorite Fairy Tales	4.5
The Wizard of Oz	4.4
Treasure Island	5.2



Fry

The Fry readability formula is based on the average sentence length and the number of syllables from random samples.

The Fry scores listed below have been assigned and certified by Swinburne Readability Laboratory in Charlottesville, Virginia.

The Birthday Surprise	1.3
Once Upon a Time	1.7
Disney's Bounce, Tigger, Bounce	1.7
Magic Tree House: Dinosaurs Before Dark	1.8
Disney's Pooh Gets Stuck	1.9
Bob and Lofty Save the Day	1.9
The Wind in the Willows	2.2
Magic Tree House: The Knight at Dawn	2.2
Arthur's Lost Puppy	2.6
Arthur Makes the Team	2.9
Tutter's Tiny Trip	3.1
Arthur and the Lost Diary	3.1
Thomas The Really Useful Engine	3.5
Treasure Island	3.6
The Secret Garden	3.7
Peter Pan	4.4
Favorite Fairy Tales	4.5
Leap's Friends From A to Z	4.6
The Wizard of Oz	5.3

Degrees of Reading Power (DRP)

The Degrees of Reading Power levels are determined by taking the number of letters in words, the number of sentences, and unfamiliar words (according to the Dale-Chall or Spache word list) from random samples. The DRP formula applies to Grades 1 and up. The average range for each grade level is listed below:

Grade 1	38–43
Grade 2	39–45
Grade 3	40–47
Grade 4	48–54
Grade 5	49–55
Grade 6	50–58

The DRP scores listed below have been assigned and certified by Swinburne Readability Laboratory in Charlottesville, Virginia.

Once Upon a Time	31
The Birthday Surprise	40
The Wind in the Willows	40
Disney's Bounce, Tigger, Bounce	41
Magic Tree House: Dinosaurs Before Dark	41
Magic Tree House: The Knight at Dawn	42
Disney's Pooh Gets Stuck	43
Arthur's Lost Puppy	44
Bob and Lofty Save the Day	44
The Secret Garden	44
Arthur Makes the Team	45
Favorite Fairy Tales	46
Peter Pan	46
Leap's Friends From A to Z	47
Arthur and the Lost Diary	47
Treasure Island	47
Thomas The Really Useful Engine	48
Tutter's Tiny Trip	49
The Wizard of Oz	49

Flesch-Kincaid

The Flesch-Kincaid levels are based on the Flesch-Kincaid formula for Grade Level scores available in Microsoft Word: $(.39 \times \text{ASL}) + (11.8 \times \text{ASW}) - 15.59$. In this formula, ASL = average sentence length (the number of words divided by the number of sentences), and ASW = average number of syllables per word (the number of syllables divided by the number of words).

The Birthday Surprise	0.0
Once Upon a Time	0.0
Disney's Pooh Gets Stuck	0.9
Arthur's Lost Puppy	1.0
Bob and Lofty Save the Day	1.2
Disney's Bounce, Tigger, Bounce	1.6
Magic Tree House: The Knight at Dawn	1.6
The Wizard of Oz	1.6
The Wind in the Willows	1.8
Arthur Makes the Team	1.9
Arthur and the Lost Diary	1.9
The Secret Garden	2.5
Magic Tree House: Dinosaurs Before Dark	2.6
Tutter's Tiny Trip	2.8
Treasure Island	3.3
Favorite Fairy Tales	3.5
Peter Pan	3.5
Thomas The Really Useful Engine	3.5
Leap's Friends From A to Z	3.7



Compiled by LeapFrog SchoolHouse.

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