

Tips for Improving Reading Level

- 1) Limit Graphic Novels/Comic Books – while these books are great from time to time, the amount of pictures does not encourage students to **think** about what they're reading. This type of book should be an occasional treat, not a standard choice.
- 2) Practice Reading Aloud – Since your child is assigned 30 minutes of reading per night, have him/her read aloud to you for 15 minutes. This encourages your child to practice reading fluently and accurately.
- 3) Push yourself to read a book that is **slightly** challenging – reading a book that is too hard will be frustrating to your child and will not help him/her become a better reader. At the same time, reading books that are too easy will not help your child's reading skills. Aim to read books at the JUST RIGHT LEVEL or a little bit above. Your teacher can give you recommendations.
- 4) Read a book WITH your child – Even as 5th graders, most students still enjoy being read to by an adult. Allowing children this opportunity lets them hear what a fluent reader sounds like. It can also lead to discussions and conversations, which can promote student's understanding.

These books are at Level 40. Many can be found at the Book Fair or can be ordered online through Scholastic.com

My Teacher Is an Alien

by Bruce Coville,

What Makes This Special

Sci-fi fun and wackiness combine in this book from a favorite author when two kids must convince their classmates that something impossible is happening in school!

River Monsters

by Jeremy Wade

What Makes This Special

Murky monsters and down-deep demons rise to the surface in this book based on the hit Animal Planet show!

Smile

by Raina Telgemeier

What Makes This Special

This bittersweet graphic novel about an extraordinary journey from injury to recovery shimmers with laughter and inspiration!

The Witches

by Roald Dahl, illustrated by Quentin Blake

What Makes This Special

Wild, wicked, and slightly sinister, this classic tale of a boy on a witch hunt is also filled with surprising moments of humor.

Bunnicula

by Deborah Howe and James Howe, illustrated by Alan Daniel

What Makes This Special

In this humorous and spooky mystery, the Monroes' new bunny is adorable, fuzzy, cute—and a vampire!

Just a Dog

by Michael Gerard Bauer

What Makes This Special

Heartwarming and humorous, this quick read tells the story of an unforgettable friendship between a boy and his dog.

Ninth Ward

by Jewell Parker Rhodes

What Makes This Special

Gripping and very emotional, this haunting tale tells the story of a gifted girl who must use all of her strengths to survive Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath.

Jake and Lily

by Jerry Spinelli

What Makes This Special

Dual (sometimes *dueling*) narrators and easy humor make this story about a brother-sister duo a quick and satisfying read!

Tales of Famous Americans

by Peter Roop and Connie Roop, illustrated by Charlie Powell

What Makes This Special

Snappy, fact-filled portraits of famous innovators and leaders are illustrated with collage pictures that blend photos and cartoons.

Jake

by Audrey Couloubis

What Makes This Special

With well-rounded characters and a generosity of spirit, this tale about kindness and the enduring strength of family will warm readers from the inside out.

First Kids Mystery #1: The Case of the Rock 'n' Roll Dog

by Martha Freeman

What Makes This Special

In this funny and playful tale, two First Daughters turn into detectives to find a tricky White House thief!

On My Honor

by Marion Dane Bauer

What Makes This Special

This heart-wrenching novel about tragic choices is realistic and taut with emotional suspense.

The Island

by Gary Paulsen

What Makes This Special

This adventure-packed story explores the exhilaration and danger of total solitude!

Dexter the Tough

by Margaret Peterson Haddix, illustrated by Mark Elliott

What Makes This Special

This thought-provoking story explores issues of bullying, friendship, family, and crisis in a touching way.

The Voyage of the Frog

by Gary Paulsen

What Makes This Special

This nail-biting survival story about a young boy alone at sea explores determination, self-reliance, and finding your inner resources!

The Great Gilly Hopkins

by Katherine Paterson

What Makes This Special

This Newbery Honor Book is filled with love and compassion as it tells the story of an 11-year-old foster child who yearns for a real family.

Matilda

by Roald Dahl, illustrated by Quentin Blake

What Makes This Special

In this delightfully absurd and wonderfully wicked tale, love conquers hate, as a gifted girl must move past some roadblocks to live a better life.

Brian's Winter

by Gary Paulsen

What Makes This Special

Relentless suspense combines with thrilling details about wilderness survival in this alternative sequel to the best-loved adventure novel *Hatchet*.

Framed

by Gordon Korman

What Makes This Special

This hilarious, action-packed mystery will have readers guessing until the very end as the Man With The Plan tries to clear himself of a crime he didn't commit.

Tales from the Odyssey: Part One

by Mary Pope Osborne

What Makes This Special

In short, accessible chapters, Mary Pope Osborne, the author of the bestselling Magic Tree House series, uses her terrific storytelling skills to bring Homer's epic poem to a whole new generation of readers!

Section

by Gary Larson

What Makes This Special

This cartoon panel depicts a typical scene of a person's life, where the person is

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