

READY★TO★READ



PARENT GUIDE Level One ★ Star Readers

ALL CHILDREN CAN BE READING STARS!

The key to helping your children become reading stars is finding books that they love. Simon & Schuster has created a brand-new system that will help you do just that! The four “Be a Reading Star!” levels make it easy to determine which of the many wonderful Ready-to-Read books are best suited for your young readers.

This guide explains how to get the most out of the “Be a Reading Star!” levels. It also provides tips for improving your children’s reading skills, ideas for motivating your children to read, and suggestions for creating fun, reading-related activities and projects for the whole family. Whether your children start out as Rising Stars, Stars, Superstars, or Megastars, the Ready-to-Read books will help make their reading experience out of this world!

RISING STAR! ★ Pre-Level One ★ Recognizing Words

STAR! ★ Level One ★ Starting to Read

SUPERSTAR! ★ Level Two ★ Reading Independently

MEGASTAR! ★ Level Three ★ Reading Proficiently





How the “Be a Reading Star!” Leveling System Works

Each Ready-to-Read book has been assigned a level, from Pre-Level 1 (Rising Star) to Level 3 (Mega-star). When you see the level on a book, you’ll know instantly whether it’s likely to be too easy, too hard, or just right for your child.

Tip: You can determine if a level is too high by having your child read the first page or paragraph. If they miss three to five words (depending on the length of the passage) the text is on a frustration level. Books need to be on a child’s “independent reading level” in order for them to move through the levels easily.

Pre-Level One: Rising Star Reader

- ★ Shared reading
- ★ Familiar characters
- ★ Simple words

Does your child enjoy listening to you read and sometimes say some of the words along with you? The books at this level—filled with characters that kids know and love, such as Mouse and Lowly Worm — are just right for your child.

Level One: Star Reader

- ★ Easy sight words and words to sound out
- ★ Simple plot and dialogue
- ★ Familiar topics and themes

Can your child recognize some simple words? Is he or she starting to sound out words and sentences? Olivia, Mike the Knight, Friday, and many more classic and new characters are waiting for your child at this level.

Level Two: Superstar Reader

- ★ Longer sentences
- ★ Simple chapters
- ★ High-interest vocabulary words

Is your child beginning to read longer sentences and stories on his or her own? At this level, your child can learn and grow with The Smurfs, Henry and Mudge, Annie and Snowball, and many more loveable characters.

Level Three: Megastar Reader

- ★ Longer, more complex story plots and character development
- ★ Variety of challenging vocabulary words
- ★ More difficult sentence structure

Is your child a confident reader? Is he or she ready for a challenge? In the books at this level, many fun and exciting characters will take them on journeys they won’t soon forget.



How to Pick Books Your Children Will Love

Once you've determined the right level for your child, it's time to pick a book. Every Ready-to-Read level has lots of fantastic books to choose from—so how do you figure out which ones to select? Try these ideas:

- Think of the kinds of books your child has enjoyed reading in the past, and find more like them. For example, does he/she enjoy books about animals? Consider trying the Mouse books, Eric Carle's *Have You Seen My Cat?*, or the new Friday the Scaredy Cat series.
- Choose books about experiences that your child can relate to. For example, did he/she recently enjoy playing outside in the sun? Try *Henry and Mudge in the Green Time* from the Henry and Mudge series.
- What does your child love to do? If she's interested in dancing, try the Katy Duck books. If he likes knights, trolls, and dragons, try *Mike and Trollee in Trouble* from our Mike the Knight series.
- Is your child in a "reading rut"? Is he/she tired of reading about the same few topics over and over again? If so, try something completely fun and new. The Smurfs books are sure to create some big laughs!
- When you were a child, which books did you love? Maybe you grew up reading about the sweet adventures of Henry and Mudge or Eloise? Try sharing one of your favorites with your child—your love for these books will be contagious!



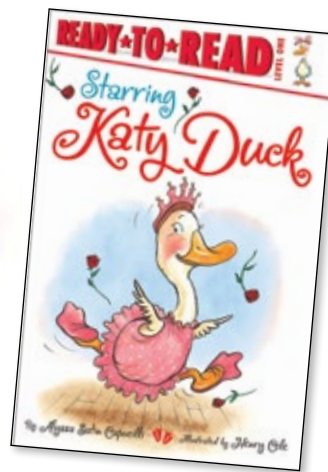


Tips for Reading with Your Child

- Children at Level One are working on sounding out words. For that reason, try to pick books that have interesting sounds, such as repeating sounds or rhyming sounds. Help your children connect the sounds to letters.
- The Level One books contain lots of simple words to sound out. Help your children sound out words. If they get stuck, talk with them about what word might make the most sense. Or, draw their attention to a picture that might provide a hint.
- As you read, stop periodically to ask your Star readers questions. Ask basic questions to make sure they understand the story. Then ask questions that get your children to think, such as “why” questions about the characters and the plot.
- After you finish reading a Level One book, ask your children to retell what happened. Encourage them to use words such as “first,” “next,” “then,” and “last” to tell the events in the right sequence. Help them fill in important details if they leave any out.

Motivating and Encouraging Your Child to Read

- Keep a list of your children’s “sight words,” or the words they recognize immediately when they see them. Add new words to the list as your children read more books and increase their sight word vocabulary. Together, set a goal for the number of words they’ll learn by a certain date. Give them a small prize when they reach their goal.
- Make an effort to talk about books at various times throughout the day, such as during car rides or family meals. Tell about what you’re reading, and have your children do the same. Share what you like and dislike, and ask each other questions. Your children will be excited to be involved in this family conversation!
- Use the “Reach for the Stars!” reading chart to keep track of your children’s progress. Help them sound out the title of each book you write on the chart, and then let them place a sticker beside each title.





Activities and Projects for the Whole Family

- In *Olivia Goes Camping*, Olivia tells Francine that there are five things you must do on a great camping trip. With your children, create a list of “Five Things You Must Do On ____.” Fill in the blank with an event or occasion that’s coming up, such as spring break, a family picnic, or a snow day. Choose five things that will make the occasion fun, such as building a snowman family that looks just like your own family, or making chili and delivering bowls of it to your neighbors. Write the five items on a piece of paper. Then hang up the paper and let your children check off the items as you complete them together.
- One of the things on Olivia’s list is “Find a really cool bug.” Help your children use a print or online source to learn about a “really cool” bug or other animal that they’ve never heard of before. Some ideas are zebus, kookaburras, and spider monkeys. Show your children pictures of the animal and read them some information about it. Next, encourage your children to get to know the animal by doing some of the following: pointing out the animal’s native country on a map or globe; trying to imitate how the animal moves or sounds; drawing a picture of the animal; or making up a story or song about the animal.
- In *Friday the Scaredy Cat*, Friday says that he isn’t scared of chickens or bicycles, but he is scared of chickens riding bicycles! Play a fun game based on Friday’s silly fear. Gather twenty note cards and a pen. On ten of the cards, write the name of an animal, such as “cow.” On the other ten, write an activity, including ordinary things like “washing the dishes” or not-so-ordinary things like “dyeing your hair blue.” Keep the cards in two piles and turn them all over. Then, take turns drawing one card from the animal pile and one from the activities pile. Everyone needs to draw a picture of the chosen animal doing the chosen activity—such as a cow dyeing its hair blue! Then, compare your silly pictures!
- Friday names all the things he is scared of and all the things he isn’t scared of. Help your children make a list of at least five challenging things they’re not scared of, such as going to the dentist or trying new foods. Help them make a “Bravery Badge” for each one by cutting out a cardboard circle, writing down the name of what they’re not scared of, and having them draw a symbol to represent it. (For example, for “Going to the Dentist,” they might draw a gleaming white smile or a toothbrush.) In the future, as your children conquer different fears, help them make new Bravery Badges to add to their collection.



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