

READY★TO★READ



PARENT GUIDE

Level Three ★ Megastar 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 (Megastar). 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 to help a child move through the levels.

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!



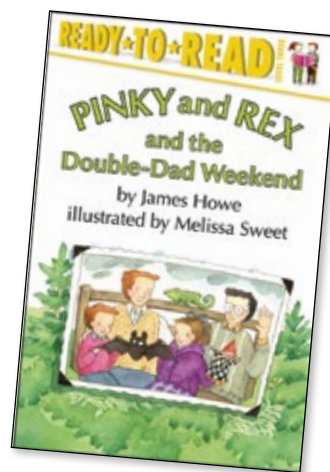


Tips for Reading with Your Child

- Reading Megastars are ready for longer and more difficult books. Help prepare them for the challenge by identifying the book's topic and discussing what your children already know about the topic before reading. Then, after they read, discuss what they learned about the topic.
- Some Level Three books might be about ideas or experiences that are unfamiliar to your children. Encourage them to keep a list of questions they have as they read. Afterward, talk about the answers to their questions.
- If your children are reading a new chapter each night, ask them to tell you what happened in the previous chapter before they begin reading the new one. This will refresh their memories and improve their comprehension.
- After Reading Megastars finish a book, encourage them to respond to it. What did they like most about it? What did they learn? Would they recommend it to a friend? Why? Let your children share their thoughts in a conversation with you—or by writing them in a "Reading Diary."

Motivating and Encouraging Your Child to Read

- Children at this level are very curious and love to learn about new things when they read. Consider your children's interests and help them find books about those topics.
- As your children read more challenging books, they're sure to have all sorts of questions. Help them find answers by showing them how to safely use the Internet or the library to find reputable sources.
- Use the "Reach for the Stars!" reading chart to keep track of your children's progress. Each time your children finish a new book, have them add its title to the chart. Have your children give a quick summary and review of the book. Then, let them add a sticker to the chart.



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