

READY★TO★READ



PARENT GUIDE Level Three ★ Megastar Readers

ALL CHILDREN CAN BE READING STARS!

The key to helping children become reading stars is finding books that they love. Simon & Schuster has created a leveled reading system that will help you do just that! The five Ready-to-Read levels make it easy to determine which of the many wonderful Ready-to-Read books are best suited for your young reader.

This guide explains how to get the most out of the Ready-to-Read levels. It also provides tips for improving your child's reading skills, ideas for motivating your child to read, and suggestions for fun, reading-related activities and projects for the whole family. Whether your child starts out as Stellar Starters, Rising Stars, Reading Stars, Superstars, or Megastars, the Ready-to-Read books will help make their reading experience out of this world!

STELLAR STARTER! ★ Ready-to-Go! ★ Sight Words



RISING STAR! ★ Pre-Level One ★ Recognizing Words



READING STAR! ★ Level One ★ Starting to Read



SUPERSTAR! ★ Level Two ★ Reading Independently



MEGASTAR! ★ Level Three ★ Reading Proficiently





How the Ready-to-Read Leveling System Works

Each Ready-to-Read book has been assigned a level, from Ready-to-Go! (Stellar Starter) 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" to move through the levels.

Ready-to-Go!: Stellar Starter

- ★ Phonics
- ★ Rhyming words and repetition
- ★ Choral reading

Is your child using pictures to understand what words mean? Are they exploring letter-sound relationships? The books at this level feature beloved characters and authors, such as Snoopy, Daniel Tiger, and books by Eric Carle.

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 Daniel Tiger, and series such as The Adventures of Otto—are just right for your child.

Level One: Reading Star

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

Can your child recognize some simple words? Are they starting to sound out words and sentences? Angelina Ballerina, PJ Masks, Robin Hill School, 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 their own? At this level, your child can learn and grow with the Peanuts gang, Henry and Mudge, and many more loveable characters as well as exciting nonfiction series.



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? Are they ready for a challenge? In the books at this level, many fun and exciting characters, along with engaging nonfiction titles, will take them on journeys they won't soon forget.

How to Pick Books Your Child 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, do they enjoy nonfiction books? Consider trying the Science of Fun Stuff books!
- Choose books about experiences that your child can relate to. For example, did they recently visit a science or space museum? Try *The Stellar Story of Space Travel* from the History of Fun Stuff series.
- What does your child love to do? If they're interested in learning about influential historical figures, try the nonfiction You Should Meet series. If they like classic stories about friendship, check out the Pinky & Rex books.
- Is your child in a "reading rut"? Are they tired of reading about the same few topics over and over again? If so, try something completely fun and new. Learn new facts about our country's history, for example, with the Secrets of American History books!
- 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 child already knows 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 child. Encourage them to keep a list of questions they have as they read. Afterward, talk about the answers to their questions.
- If your child is 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 Megastar readers 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 child 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 child's interests and help them find books about those topics.
- As your child reads 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 child's progress. Each time your child finishes a new book, have them add its title to the chart. Have your child give a quick summary and review of the book. Then, let them add a sticker to the chart.





Activities and Projects for the Whole Family

- In *Secrets of American History: Fearless Flyers, Dazzle Painters, and Code Talkers!*, your child will read about how American Indians from the Choctaw Nation used “code talking” to help soldiers send out and receive messages their enemies wouldn’t understand during World War I. Challenge your child to create their own code to convey their own secret messages and see if you can crack them! Some codes to try: substituting numbers for letters, creating a cipher wheel, or a pigpen cypher.
- The *You Should Meet* nonfiction series introduces young readers to inspirational figures in history, such as artists, politicians, and athletes. After reading one of the *You Should Meet* books, have your child come up with fun facts about themselves they’d put in their own *You Should Meet* book. Look through family photos to find accompanying images to their facts!
- In *You Should Meet: Lin-Manuel Miranda*, your child will learn that Lin-Manuel Miranda was so inspired after reading a biography of Alexander Hamilton that he began writing an entire musical about him. Ask your child if there is a person they’ve learned about who inspires them. Have them create a poem or song detailing events of that person’s life, just like Lin-Manuel Miranda did with Alexander Hamilton!
- Learn the cool history and fascinating facts behind topics kids love in the *History of Fun Stuff* series! In *The Colorful Story of Comics* explores the history of comics, graphics novels, manga, and other visual mediums. After reading the book, have your child create a comic of their own! Encourage them to come up with their own setting, storyline, characters, and conflict for their comic. For more fun history of comics, be sure to also check out *The Great American Story of Charlie Brown, Snoopy, and the Peanuts Gang!*, another title in the *History of Fun Stuff* series.



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