

# Reading Level Assessment

Note: This reading level assessment is to assess the reading level for “The Good & the Beautiful Book List.” There is a different assessment to assess the course level on which child should start.

## Level 3

### Not ready for level 3

The child is not ready for level 3 if you check ONE of the following.

- Either passage takes longer than 1 minute 40 seconds to read.
- 6 or more mistakes were made in either passage.

### Ready for Level 3

The child is ready for level 3 if BOTH of the following are checked, and he/she should test for level 4. If he/she is not ready for level 4, he/she should stay on level 3.

- Neither of the passages took longer than 1:40 seconds.
- Less than 6 mistakes were made in either passage.

#### #1

The day was warm for October. The sun was hot on the boy’s head. He was working in the garden in back of the ranch house. He was raking up dead leaves and vines.

A woman came out of the house. “Why don’t you rest awhile?” she said.

“I’m nearly through,” said the boy. He raked up the last of the tomato vines. “There! How does it look?”

“It never looked better,” she said. “Come on up to the house, Don. There’s a piece of apple pie for you.”

“Thank you, Mrs. Hibbs,” he said, “but I’d better go. I want to get home before dark.”

“You’ll have enough time,” she said.

“But I want to stop on the way,” he said. “I want to stop at the Bar-B Ranch.”

“Oh,” said Mrs. Hibbs. “You want to see your horse.”

#### #2

Once a year the Emperor of China opened his court so that even the humblest of his people could come before him. It was on one such day that Pong, the son of a farmer, knelt at the Emperor’s feet.

“Majesty,” said Pong Lo. “I have come to ask for your daughter’s hand in marriage.”

The Emperor’s lords were shocked. The Princess, who stood near her father’s throne, lowered her eyes and blushed.

“How dare you make such a request?” demanded the Emperor. His eyes were fierce, and his long mustache twitched. The peasant pressed his forehead to the silken carpet.

# Level 4

**Note:** Child should only complete the level 4 assessment if he/she passed the level 3 assessment.

## Not Ready for Level 4

The child should stay on level 4 if ONE OR more of the following is checked.

- One or more of the passages took longer than 1 minute 20 seconds to read.
- 4 or more mistakes were made in either passage.

## Ready for Level 4

The child should move to the level 5 assessment if BOTH of the following are checked.

- Both passages were read in less than 1 minute 20 seconds.
- Less than 4 mistakes were made in either passage.

### #1

Aunt Mary was ashamed of her fear when she heard this. The boys were a little disappointed. They had hoped something was going to happen. "Let's go play Indian, anyhow," they said. Mother excused them from the table, and they ran off to play.

"I think Mary would like to see the plantation," said Mother to Aunt Unity. "She's never seen one before. First we'll show her the workshops behind the house.

All the girls went along. The kitchen was in a house by itself. It was across a brick-paved yard back of the big house. A lane went past the kitchen and led to the washhouse where the laundry was done, to the milkhouse, the smokehouse, the barns, and the coach house and henhouse. Mother was explaining about all the work that went on at each place, when they heard shouts and yells.

### #2

Helen came charging. Her fist shot out. And she hit Annie right in the mouth.

Helen could not hear her pain-filled cry. But she could feel the stranger jerk away. She smiled.

"Oh, let her have the doll," Mrs. Keller cried. "It's the only way to calm her."

"But Helen doesn't know what self-control is," Mrs. Keller answered. "She doesn't know how to keep her temper."

"Then that is the first lesson I must teach her," Annie Sullivan said. "For I do not think I can teach her anything else until I do."

Helen came charging again. But this time Annie was ready for her. She grabbed Helen's arms and hung on as tight as she could.

Helen kicked and screamed for quite a while. Then suddenly she went limp. "So my girl," Annie said. "Have you had enough? Are you ready to go on?"

# Level 5

**Note:** Child should only complete level 5 assessments if he/she passed the level 4 assessment.

## Stay on Level 5

The child should stay on level 5 if ONE OR more of the following is checked.

- One or more of the passages took longer than 1 minute 30 seconds to read.
- 4 or more mistakes were made in either passage.

## Move to Level 6

The child should move to the level 6 assessment if BOTH of the following are checked.

- Both passages were read in less than 1 minute 30 seconds.
- Less than 4 mistakes were made in either passage.

### #1

This log jutted out a bit and was wide enough, Ann had discovered, to hold the few dear possessions that in all the family belonged only to her. She ran her hand along the log. Yes, there were her blue Gettysburg shoes that she was saving for winter and special occasions. Only there didn't appear to be any special occasions here. Nothing was special enough even for her mother to use the linen tablecloth or the twelve china plates that were stored away.

Ann moved her fingers until she felt the piece of cloth she had wrapped around her two blue satin hair ribbons to keep them clean. Next on the shelf came Semanthie. Semanthie was the tiny doll her father had carved in Gettysburg when he had had time to do something with wood besides chop it down.

Her doll never laughed or scolded when Ann found fault with things. She just looked at her with those black, unblinking eyes and those pale, unmoving lips.

### #2

This realization made him feel very foolish, as well it might, for it is rather silly for a detective to try to shadow himself. Still, he realized that all he had to do was to follow those footprints backward instead of forward, and he would come out by the hermit's house. Which he did, and presently he heard the sound of voices.

But this time he did not stop to see what the robbers were doing. He gave the house a wide berth, jumped into the creek, swam across, and in a few minutes more was back on familiar ground.

"I'll just stop in and see if anything has been heard of Egbert," he said to himself. So he turned down toward the Widow Winnick's home.

Almost at once the rabbit's head popped up through the opening. But it was a changed rabbit that beamed happily at him.

"Oh, Mr. Freddy!" she cried. "How can I ever thank you?"

"But," stammered the bewildered Freddy, "I didn't." And then he stopped. For one of the little rabbits who were standing around him in a respectful and admiring circle hiccupped and said politely . . .

# Level 6

**Note:** Child should only complete level 6 assessments if he/she passed the level 5 assessment.

## Stay on Level 6

The child should stay on level 6 if ONE OR more of the following is checked.

- The passage took more than 2 minutes 15 seconds to read.
- Three or more mistakes were made in the passage.

## Move to Level 7

The child should move to the level 7 assessment if BOTH of the following are checked.

- The passage was read in less than 2 minutes 15 seconds.
- Less than 4 mistakes were made in the passage.

### #1

"That is what I came to tell you—that is, to ask you to tell Miss Pollyanna," hurried on the girl, breathlessly and incoherently. "We think it's—so awful—so perfectly awful that the little thing can't ever walk again; and after all she's done for us, too—for mother, you know, teaching her to play the game, and all that. And when we heard how now she couldn't play it herself—poor little dear! I'm sure I don't see how she CAN, either, in her condition!—but when we remembered all the things she'd said to us, we thought if she could only know what she HAD done for us, that it would HELP, you know, in her own case, about the game, because she could be glad—that is, a little glad—" Milly stopped helplessly, and seemed to be waiting for Miss Polly to speak.

Miss Polly had sat politely listening, but with a puzzled questioning in her eyes. Only about half of what had been said, had she understood. She was thinking now that she always had known that Milly Snow was "queer," but she had not supposed she was crazy. In no other way, however, could she account for this incoherent, illogical, unmeaning rush of words. When the pause came, she filled it with a quiet:

"I don't think I quite understand, Milly. Just what is it that you want me to tell my niece?"

"Yes, that's it; I want you to tell her," answered the girl, feverishly. "Make her see what she's done for us. Of course she's SEEN some things, because she's been there, and she's known mother is different; but I want her to know HOW different she is—and me, too. I'm different. I've been trying to play it—the game—a little."

Miss Polly frowned. She would have asked what Milly meant by this "game," but there was no opportunity. Milly was rushing on again nervously.

# Level 7

**Note:** Child should only complete level 7 assessment if he/she passed the level 6 assessment.

## Stay on Level 7

The child should stay on level 7 if ONE OR more of the following is checked.

- One or more of the passages took longer than 1 minute 20 seconds to read.
- 4 or more mistakes were made in either passage.

## Move to Level 8

The child should move to the level 8 assessment if BOTH of the following are checked.

- Both passages were read in less than 1 minute 20 seconds.
- Less than 4 mistakes were made in either passage.

### #1

Anne looked around her wistfully. The whitewashed walls were so painfully bare and staring that she thought they must ache over their own bareness. The floor was bare, too, except for a round braided mat in the middle such as Anne had never seen before. In one corner was the bed, a high, old-fashioned one, with four dark, low-turned posts. In the other corner was the aforesaid three-corner table adorned with a fat, red velvet pin-cushion hard enough to turn the point of the most adventurous pin. Above it hung a little six-by-eight mirror. Midway between table and bed was the window, with an icy white muslin frill over it, and opposite it was the wash-stand. The whole apartment was of a rigidity not to be described in words, but which sent a shiver to the very marrow of Anne's bones. With a sob she hastily discarded her garments, put on the skimpy nightgown and sprang into bed where she burrowed face downward into the pillow and pulled the clothes over her head.

### #2

As the carriage rolled up the avenue, he sat leaning comfortably against the luxurious cushions, and regarded the prospect with great interest. He was, in fact, interested in everything he saw. He had been interested in the carriage, with its large, splendid horses and their glittering harness; he had been interested in the tall coachman and footman, with their resplendent livery; and he had struck up an acquaintance with the footman.

When the carriage reached the great gates of the park, he looked out of the window to get a good view of the huge stone lions ornamenting the entrance. The gates were opened by a motherly, rosy-looking woman, who came out of a pretty, ivy-covered lodge. Two children ran out of the door of the house and stood looking with round, wide-open eyes at the little boy in the carriage, who looked at them also. Their mother stood curtseying and smiling, and the children, on receiving a sign from her, made bobbing little courtesies too.

"Does she know me?" asked Lord Fauntleroy. "I think she must think she knows me." And he took off his black velvet cap to her and smiled.

# Level 8

**Note:** Child should only complete level 8 assessment if he/she passed the level 7 assessment.

## Stay on Level 8

The child should stay on level 8 if ONE OR more of the following is checked.

- One or more of the passages took longer than 1 minute 20 seconds to read.
- 4 or more mistakes were made in either passage.

## Move to Level 9

The child should move to the level 9 assessment if BOTH of the following are checked.

- Both passages were read in less than 1 minute 20 seconds.
- Less than 4 mistakes were made in either passage.

### #1

They conversed no more, and Heidi began to tremble with excitement when she recognized all the trees on the road and the lofty peaks of the mountains. Sometimes she felt as if she could not sit still any longer, but had to jump down and run with all her might. They arrived at the village at the stroke of five. Immediately a large group of women and children surrounded the cart, for the trunk and the little passenger had attracted everybody's notice. When Heidi had been lifted down, she found herself held and questioned on all sides. But when they saw how frightened she was, they let her go at last. The baker had to tell of Heidi's arrival with the strange gentleman, and assured all the people that Heidi loved her grandfather with all her heart, let the people say what they would about him.

Heidi, in the meantime, was running up the path; from time to time she was obliged to stop, for her basket was heavy and she lost her breath. When the child caught sight of the hut at last, her heart began to beat, and at last she tremblingly opened the door.

### #2

Although he knew all the gangs and all the natural galleries with which they communicated in the mined part of the mountain, he had not the least idea where the palace of the king of the gnomes was; otherwise he would have set out at once on the enterprise of discovering what the said design was. He judged, and rightly, that it must lie in a farther part of the mountain, between which and the mine there was as yet no communication. There must be one nearly completed, however; for it could be but a thin partition which now separated them. If only he could get through in time to follow the goblins as they retreated! A few blows would doubtless be sufficient—just where his ear now lay; but if he attempted to strike there with his pickaxe, he would only hasten the departure of the family, put them on their guard, and perhaps lose their involuntary guidance. He therefore began to feel the wall with his hands, and soon found that some of the stones were loose enough to be drawn out with little noise.

# Level 9

**Note:** Child should only complete level 8 assessment if they passed the level 7 assessment.

## Stay on Level 9

The child should stay on level 9 if ONE OR more of the following is checked.

- One or more of the passages took longer than 1 minute 20 seconds to read.
- 4 or more mistakes were made in either passage.

## Move to Level 10

The child should move to the level 10 assessment if BOTH of the following are checked.

- Both passages were read in less than 1 minute 20 seconds.
- Less than 4 mistakes were made in either passage.

### #1

It was a well-traveled road long before the revolution, but even so late as the year 1832 it was still unimproved, and often so deep in mud that—so residents of Germantown said—it was necessary to saddle a horse to get from one side to the other. Not all of its roughness and its wet, however, could interfere with the joyful stride of a triumphant father who tramped the difficult mile, on a cold November day, from his house to the big dwelling. Nothing could stay Bronson Alcott as he hurried, breathless, to the Haines house, as he burst in at the door to tell the great news. He had a new baby daughter, a lusty, lively, altogether remarkable daughter, and he had come to take all the Haines children over to see the new baby. Back they all went with him, trooping along the highway, buzzing with talk and questions. They stood presently, in an awed, respectful circle around the small, red but extremely sound and vigorous baby.

### #2

The house seemed swarming with boys, who were beguiling the rainy twilight with all sorts of amusements. There were boys everywhere, "up-stairs and down-stairs and in the lady's chamber," apparently, for various open doors showed pleasant groups of big boys, little boys, and middle-sized boys in all stages of evening relaxation, not to say effervescence. Two large rooms on the right were evidently schoolrooms, for desks, maps, blackboards, and books were scattered about. An open fire burned on the hearth, and several indolent lads lay on their backs before it, discussing a new cricket-ground, with such animation that their boots waved in the air. A tall youth was practicing on the flute in one corner, quite undisturbed by the racket all about him.

The hall, however, presented the most inviting prospect of all, for a brisk game of tag was going on in the upper entry. One landing was devoted to marbles, the other to checkers, while the stairs were occupied by a boy reading and a constant succession of small boys sliding down the banisters, to the great detriment of their clothes.

# Level 10

Any student who passes level 9, should be considered on level 10.