

Appendix: Text Leveling Correlation Chart

Knowing text level characteristics coupled with knowing a reader’s abilities can help us match students to texts, ensuring that their time spent reading is not a struggle, but rather an engaging time to explore books and work on goals. Levels also help us introduce the right strategies at the right time. Certain strategies simply won’t work if they are too sophisticated for the sorts of texts the child is reading (for instance, I can’t imagine I’d teach too many kindergarteners about tracking flashbacks and multiple plot lines). Other strategies are too simplistic and don’t offer the student enough challenge (for instance, I wouldn’t teach most eighth graders to get their mouth ready to say the first sound in a word.)

Once the first printings of this book were out in the world, I started to notice that some readers weren’t always familiar with the leveling system I’ve chosen to use in this book, the Fountas and Pinnell Text Level Gradient™. For this reason, I’m including the following correlation chart to help you match the information in the margins to a more familiar leveling system if that’s the case for you. Or, if you don’t use any text leveling system, you can at least consider the typical range of levels associated with each grade.

The suggested correlations draw from a variety of sources including but not limited to: The Teachers College Reading and Writing Project’s website, Common Core State Standards Appendix A, and Fountas and Pinnell’s *Leveled Literacy Intervention* materials. There were slight variations in each of these sources, and an Internet search for “level correlation chart” easily yields a dozen more variations! What follows is a synthesis of all the information I collected and is simply a guide rather than an endorsement of these correlations.

| Grade Level | Fountas and Pinnell Text Level Gradient™ | Reading Recovery Level | DRA Level | Lexile Level |
|-------------|--|------------------------|-----------|--------------|
| K | A–D | 1–5/6 | A–6 | Up to 450 |
| 1 | D–J | 5/6–17 | 6–18 | 80–500 |
| 2 | J–M | 17–20 | 18–28 | 450–650 |
| 3 | M–P | 20–38 | 28–38 | 550–770 |
| 4 | P–S | 38–40 | 38–40 | 770–860 |
| 5 | S–V | 40–N/A | 40–50 | 830–980 |
| 6 | V–X | N/A | 60 | 980–1030 |
| 7 | X–Y | N/A | 70 | 1030–1070 |
| 8 | Y–Z+ | N/A | 80 | 1070–1155 |