



# Selecting Age Appropriate Books

GRADE LEVEL	CRITERIA TO READ A MILLION WORDS	BOOK SHOULD CONTAIN
<b>Preschool</b>	<b>75 Picture books</b> <i>(Read with an adult or independently)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One line of text with large spaces between words</li> <li>• Repeated word and sentence patterns</li> <li>• Basic sight words</li> </ul>
<b>Kindergarten</b>	<b>75 Picture books</b> <i>(Read with an adult or independently)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two lines of text with large print</li> <li>• Written sentence structure similar to students' spoken language</li> <li>• Simple punctuation and dialogue</li> <li>• Sentences that increase in length</li> <li>• About eight pages</li> </ul>
<b>First Grade</b>	<b>75 Picture books or 25 chapter books</b> <i>(Read with an adult or independently)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Topics that range beyond the familiar</li> <li>• More multi-syllable words and less common spelling patterns</li> <li>• Text that is more reflective of written than spoken language</li> <li>• Genres including realistic fiction, human and animal fantasy, folk tales, and simple nonfiction</li> <li>• 10 – 30 pages in length</li> </ul>
<b>Second Grade</b>	<b>150 picture books or 50 chapter books</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Smaller print size</li> <li>• Plots and characters that are more sophisticated</li> <li>• Various genres including more biographies</li> <li>• 60 – 100 pages in length with short chapters and few pictures</li> </ul>
<b>Third Grade</b>	<b>30 chapter books</b> <i>(large type)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Topics and settings that go beyond reader's personal experiences</li> <li>• Various genres, including historical and science fiction and a wider variety of fiction and nonfiction</li> <li>• Texts that have few illustrations – usually black and white photographs</li> <li>• 50 – 200 pages in length</li> </ul>
<b>Fourth Grade</b>	<b>25 chapter books</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Settings that are detailed and distant from students' own experiences</li> <li>• Fiction and nonfiction texts that represent a range of times in history</li> <li>• Text that have mature themes including societal problems, family problems, war and death</li> <li>• Words from other languages which involve the use of context clues</li> <li>• 70 – 150 pages in length</li> </ul>

For more information about the Million Word Challenge, please visit [www.familiesinschools.org/million-word-challenge](http://www.familiesinschools.org/million-word-challenge) or call (888) 766-2242.

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<b>Fifth Grade</b>	<b>25 chapter books</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sophisticated and multi-syllable words</li> <li>• Few illustrations that require interpretation and connection to the text</li> <li>• Text which surpasses simple narratives to provide a significant amount of historical information and should focus on difficult periods of history</li> <li>• Themes that include growing up, demonstrating courage, and experiencing hardship</li> <li>• Small font and be 150 – 200 pages in length</li> </ul>
<b>Sixth Grade</b>	<b>25 Young Adult Novels</b> <i>(small type of 150 pages)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fiction and nonfiction text including plots involving characters who suffer hardships and learn from them</li> <li>• Themes which require an awareness of social and political issues in order to understand the texts</li> <li>• Informational texts which may present complex graphic information</li> <li>• Small font and be 200 – 250 pages in length</li> </ul>
<b>Seventh Grade</b>	<b>25 Young Adult Novels</b> <i>(small type of 150 pages)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Genres vary but may include science fiction which incorporates fantasy yet also requires technical knowledge</li> <li>• Subtle themes and complex plots</li> <li>• Irony and satire, requiring readers to think beyond the literal</li> <li>• A wide range of social problems as themes</li> <li>• Small font and be 250 – 300 pages in length</li> </ul>
<b>Eighth Grade</b>	<b>25 Young Adult Novels</b> <i>(small type of 150 pages)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Controversial social and political issues with detailed historical accounts</li> <li>• Complex examples of basic organizational structures</li> <li>• Fiction texts which explore a wide range of mature themes relative to the human condition</li> <li>• Genres which include fantasy that have heroic quests and complex characters</li> <li>• Selected texts which provide graphics details of hardship and violence</li> <li>• Small font and be 250 – 300 pages in length</li> </ul>
<b>Ninth Grade</b>	<b>12 Novels</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Small font size</li> <li>• Approximately 200 pages</li> <li>• *Refer to recommended reading list</li> </ul>
<b>Tenth Grade</b>	<b>12 Novels</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Small font size</li> <li>• Approximately 250 pages</li> <li>• *Refer to recommended reading list</li> </ul>
<b>Eleventh Grade</b>	<b>15 Novels</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Small font size</li> <li>• Approximately 300 pages</li> <li>• *Refer to recommended reading list</li> </ul>
<b>Twelfth Grade</b>	<b>15 Novels</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Small font size</li> <li>• Approximately 350 pages</li> <li>• *Refer to recommended reading list</li> </ul>