

Book Band Progression



The following information has been gathered from two primary sources: 'Which Book and Why: Using Book Bands and book levels for guided reading in Key Stage 1' (Ed. Sue Bodmin and Glen Franklin, Institute of Education Press, 2014) and Pearsons Bug Club (<http://www.bugclub.co.uk/>)

'Organising books in a gradient of challenge enables us to select texts to cater for the range of attainments within a class...'

'Colour Book Bands provide a structure within a range of fiction and nonfiction titles from different reading series can be accommodated. This enables teachers to offer children a rich and varied experience of successful text reading.'

'Which Book and Why' (p.102)

Each Book Band has its own colour. The chart below gives an indication of progression across the Book Bands.

Book Band	Age Related Expectations							PM Benchmark	RWI Phonics
	R	1	2	3	4	5	6		
LILAC									Set 1 sounds
PINK Band 1								1, 2	
RED Band 2								3, 4, 5	
YELLOW Band 3								6, 7, 8	Set 2 sounds
BLUE Band 4								9, 10, 11	
GREEN Band 5								12, 13, 14	Set 3 sounds
ORANGE Band 6								15, 16	
TURQUOISE Band 7								17, 18	
PURPLE Band 8								19, 20	National Curriculum Grammar, Spelling and Punctuation
GOLD Band 9								21, 22	
WHITE Band 10								23, 24	
LIME Band 11								25, 26	

Light Grey = below age-related expectations	
Dark Grey = within age-related expectations	
Black = exceeding age-related expectations	

Lilac	Lilac band books are wordless books that tell a story through pictures alone. They help children to develop speaking and listening skills through creating and telling stories.
Pink	Pink band is the very first level of reading books which has words. The number of words increases slightly as your child progresses through the reading level.
Red	Red band books have a slightly increased number of words, an increase in the number of pages and slightly more complex story lines. The growing complexity in the story lines is reinforced through the development of inference and prediction using visual literacy.
Yellow	New learning in Yellow band books includes a slightly increased number of words and a move away from familiar experiences. Yellow books require the reader to deploy some inference skills, e.g. for humour, and have more variation in sentence structure, including sentences with more than one clause.
Blue	Blue band books have a slightly increased number of words and some variation in sentence beginnings. They may use ellipses and other punctuation. The story lines are more complex, including more than one event, and the stories are less dependent on picture cues.
Green	The number of words increases slightly in Green band books. Stories have a wider variety of characters and events which develop over a number of pages. Sentences may include lists of things or actions, and adverbs are used frequently to begin sentences. The books begin to use capital letters to support reading with expression. The growing complexity in the story lines is reinforced through the development of inference and prediction using visual literacy.
Orange	At Orange band, the page count increases to challenge and encourage reading stamina. There is an increased use of dialogue to encourage reading with expression. Orange band books introduce some complex sentences (use of 'if', 'so' and 'because') and include italics to show emphasis. Slightly more literary language is used. Children are increasingly encouraged to infer meaning from the text in order to gain full enjoyment from the story.
Turquoise	Turquoise band books include an increasing range of adjectives and more descriptive verbs to replace 'said'. Turquoise books include words chosen for appropriateness and impact rather than decodability, with more extended descriptions. Paragraphs begin to develop and more unusual and challenging vocabulary is included.
Purple	Purple band books include an increased proportion of longer sentences, with a more challenging vocabulary. Some Purple books have short chapters to challenge and encourage reading stamina. Purple books include longer and more complex sentences with the inclusion of complex (i.e. 'when') and simple (i.e. 'and') connectives. Story features such as plot, character and setting are developed in more detail, and the text in the non-fiction books is presented in a variety of ways.
Gold	Gold band books include more sophisticated and challenging vocabulary, including word play and the introduction of figurative language. Some Gold books have longer chapters for more sustained reading. Children reading at this band are confident independent readers who can tackle increasingly complex language, story structures and text layout.
White	The stories at White band encourage children to empathise with the characters and consider why they behave as they do, and how they change during the course of the story. Some books have longer chapters for more sustained reading. The non-fiction books are divided into sections that require more sustained reading and there is increased challenge in the layout of the information. Clauses in longer sentences are separated by commas to encourage developing expression.
Lime	Lime band books include a widening range of writing styles and an increased variation in sentence structure, including -ing clauses and longer sentences with more than two clauses. Children reading at Lime are able to interpret more sophisticated word plays and puns. The narrator's voice in a fiction story may be distinguished from the character's voice through figurative and literary language. The story is often told through dialogue and action to 'show' instead of 'tell' as the plot develops.