

## The Usborne Reading Programme Framework

	Content	Number of pages	Number of words	Words per page	Sentence length
First Reading Level One	Short single narrative followed by reading and comprehension puzzles	32	up to 150	up to 10 (1–3 lines)	on average 2–8 words
First Reading Level Two	Single narrative plus character sheets and/or maps, and puzzles	32	up to 250	up to 20 (2–4 lines)	on average 6–10 words
First Reading Level Three	Single narrative with repeated elements, plus character sheets and/or maps, no puzzles	48	up to 450	up to 30 (2–5 lines)	on average 8–12 words
First Reading Level Four	Single narrative	48	up to 750	up to 40 (3–6 lines)	on average 8–15 words
Young Reading Series One	Several linked stories or one longer narrative in chapters. Direct and indirect speech, intertextual references	48	1,000–1,500	up to 50 (up to 10 lines)	up to 15 words, varied length but generally short
Young Reading Series Two	Single narrative in chapters. Introduce irony and subplot, allow opportunity for inference and deduction	64	2,000–2,500	up to 70 (up to 15 lines)	up to 20 words, more varied length
Young Reading Series Three	Single narrative in chapters. Assume some relevant background knowledge	64	3,000–5,000	up to 120 (up to 20 lines or full page)	up to 30 words, varied length

	Themes	Grammar	Vocabulary
First Reading Level One	Classic tales (e.g. Aesop's Fables) and folktales	Present and simple past tenses; modal verb can; comparative adjectives	Simple everyday vocabulary, familiar items
First Reading Level Two	As Level One, including less familiar folktales	As Level One plus future; modal verbs could and must; comparatives and superlatives	More descriptive and evocative vocabulary, always clear in context
First Reading Level Three	As Level Two plus original fiction and non-fiction (natural history life cycles)	As Level Two plus present and past perfect; range of modal verbs	Powerful verbs and adjectives, clear in context
First Reading Level Four	As Level Three plus classic fairy tales	Full range of tenses	More exotic elements and controlled use of idiom
Young Reading Series One	Fairy tales, fantasy, fiction, non-fiction ("the story of...")	Past tense narratives; avoid passives, embedded clauses, semicolons and colons	Wide-ranging everyday vocabulary
Young Reading Series Two	As Series One plus adapted classics	Introduce more challenging sentence structure, including embedded clauses	More challenging, building on Series One; specialist or technical terms explained
Young Reading Series Three	History, biographies, classics	Full use of grammatical range, comparable with mainstream contemporary fiction or general journalism	Building on Series Two, may assume knowledge of specialist or technical terms

The elements above are intended as guidelines only, and whilst distinctions between different levels remain clear,

exceptions may sometimes be made to individual specifications in the interests of narrative or style.

## Starting to read

# A guide to reading schemes available in your local library

Reading Ladder, Orion Early Readers, Usborne reading programme



Learning to read is an important stage in a child's life. There are numerous books for beginner readers but the variety of reading schemes available from different publishers can be confusing. This guide is a brief outline of some of the most popular schemes we stock in our libraries. It will show you the various levels in each scheme helping you to progress clearly through a programme you are using or to find a comparable level in another scheme.

# Reading Ladder

Children will encounter favourite faces such as Thomas the Tank Engine and Mr Men, discover books from much-loved children's authors such as Julia Donaldson, Michael Morpurgo, Jacqueline Wilson, and Anne Fine, and find out about exciting non-fiction topics, such as dinosaurs and the Ancient Romans.

## Reading Ladder Level 1



Are perfect for new readers who are beginning to read simple stories with help.

Book bands: Level 1 covers book band colours Pink, Red, Yellow, Blue and Green.

## Reading Ladder Level 2

Are perfect for readers who are growing in confidence and are beginning to enjoy longer stories.

Book bands: Level 2 books cover book band colours Orange, Turquoise and Purple.



## Reading Ladder Level 3



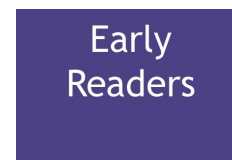
Are perfect for fluent readers who are beginning to read exciting, challenging stories independently.

Book bands: Level 3 books cover book band colours Gold, White and Lime.

## Orion Early Readers

Specifically designed to support those aged 5 and over as they take the next step on their reading journey, the funny stories are accessibly written by talented children's authors including Steve Cole, Vivian French and Francesca Simon and are all complemented by lively designs.

Early Readers bridge the gap between picture books and reading alone; accessible stories, illustrated in full colour on every page.



Reading Together-BLUE



Reading Alone-RED



Facts and Non-Fiction-GREEN

