



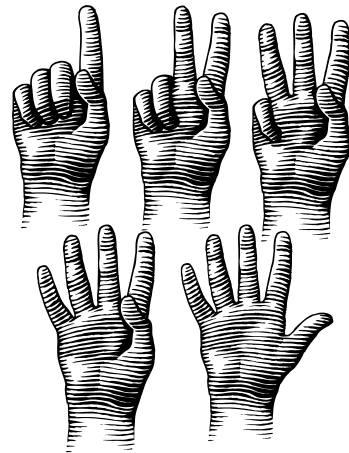
Choosing Just Right Books

Five Finger Test



Sometimes it is difficult to know if a book is going to be too easy or too hard by just looking at it. The Five Finger test is one way to "test" a book before you spend too much time with it and get frustrated.

- 1) First, choose the book you think you would like to read.
- 2) Find a page of text somewhere in the middle of the book. Find a page with lots of text (words) and few or no pictures.
- 3) Begin to read the page. It is best to read the page aloud or in a whisper, if possible, while doing the test so you can hear the places where you have difficulty.
- 4) Each time you come to a word you don't know, hold one finger up.
- 5) If you have all five fingers up before you get to the end of the page, wave the book "good-bye." It is probably too difficult for you right now. Try it again later in the year. If you need help finding a book, ask your teacher or librarian.
- 6) If you have no fingers up when you finish the page, then the book may be an easy read for you. Use the Goldilocks' method as you read to see if the book is too easy or "just right." Enjoy!
- 7) If you have fewer than five fingers but more than one or two fingers up when you finish reading the page, the book may be just what you need to grow as a reader. Use the Goldilocks' method as you read to see if the book is a "just right" book. Enjoy!



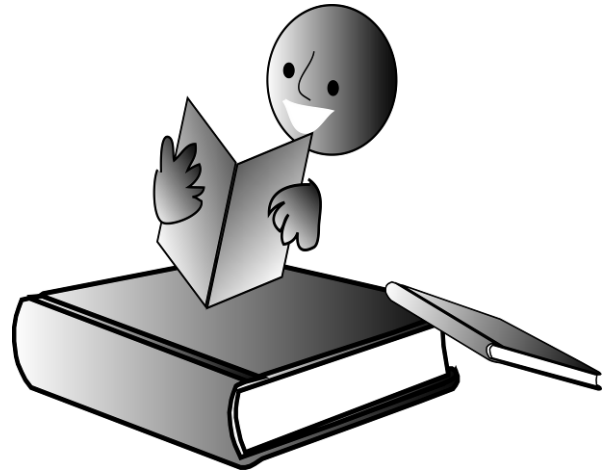
Too Easy Books

- Have you read this book many times before?
- Do you understand the story very well without much effort?
- Do you know and understand almost every word?
- Can you read it smoothly and fluently without much practice or effort?



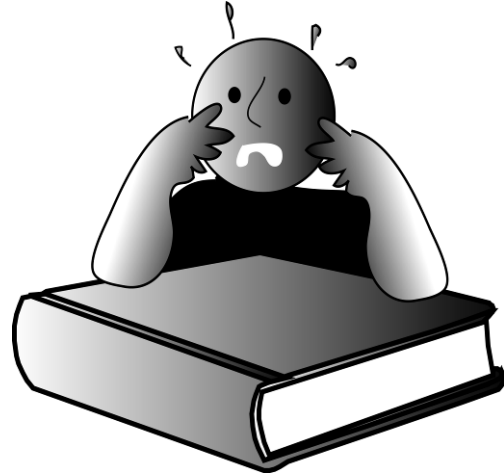
Just Right Books

- Is this book new to you?
- Do you understand most of the book?
- Are there a few words per page that you don't know? Remember to use the five finger test.
- Can someone help you with the book if you hit a tough spot?



Too Hard Books

- Are there more than a few words on a page that you don't know?



Remember the five finger test.

- Are you confused about what is happening in most of the book?
- When you read are you struggling and does it sound choppy?
- Is everyone busy and unable to help you if you hit a tough spot?



Dream Books:

- I am confused about what is happening in the book.
- There are many words I don't know.
- My reading is choppy.
- I would like someone to read the book to me.

