



Reading Levels

Parents are sometimes confused about their child's reading level and often request more advanced levels for their child.

Teachers will always listen to and investigate parent concerns regarding their child's reading levels and will usually use an assessment instrument called a **Reading Benchmark**.

During this assessment, the student is required to read a fiction or non-fiction text at a level determined by the teacher's knowledge of the student through weekly guided reading sessions.

Prior to reading the student reads the text silently (or in the case of early reader - looks at the pictures) and then retells the story to the teacher. The teacher assesses the child's **retelling ability** on criteria such as fluency and use of appropriate vocabulary.

The student then reads the text and the teacher records any errors. **Reading accuracy** is determined using a formula which indicates whether the student is reading at an independent level, an instructional level or a frustration level.

The student is then required to answer questions on the text. These questions are organised to assess different levels of comprehension. Literal questions can be found in the text. However inferential and evaluative questions require a higher level of understanding.

If a student achieves 100% accuracy but not the required level of comprehension further tests at lower levels will need to be administered to determine the level of comprehension which is the true reading level of the student.

Homework readers are usually distributed at the student's **independent level**. Guided reading in class is taken at an **instructional level**.

These formal assessments occur at least twice a year and more often if teachers need clarification. However through weekly guided reading sessions, teachers maintain a consistent knowledge of a student's reading ability and will use teacher judgement to increase reading levels when necessary.

If you have any queries about your child's reading levels please ask your child's teacher. For further clarification regarding this assessment please contact June Noblet (Support Teacher: Inclusive Education) jnoblet@bne.catholic.edu.au