

Developmental Reading Assessment (DRA)TM

Fifth Grade



The Developmental Reading Assessment (DRA)TM is a helpful and important English Language Arts assessment that is used in kindergarten through fifth grades in White Plains and in hundreds of classrooms nationwide.

It is an extremely useful tool because it provides our teachers with a wealth of information about how *each* child is developing as a reader. After administering and scoring the DRA, a teacher will know the Independent Reading Level for every child in the class. Specifically, the teacher will know each student's strengths and how to improve her/his development as a reader. This information helps the teacher to focus on specific goals for each student and for the class as a whole.

At each grade level, there is a range of typical reading levels — the levels for fifth grade are listed at the bottom of the page.

Reading to Your Child

When you are looking for books in the school or public library to read to your child, it's very important for you to pick books which are more difficult than the sample books we've listed on the back side of this flyer for your child to read. Try to select beautiful books that are rich in language and story line. Choose subjects that are interesting to both you and your child.

Don't think that a fourth or fifth grader is too old to be read to — older children enjoy hearing a story read to them as much as younger ones. By reading books that are at a higher level and then talking to your child about what you read, you are actually helping

teach your child good reading habits.

This should be a special and fun time for the two of you. Talk about the characters in the book, ask your child if s/he likes or dislikes them and why. Ask your child what s/he thinks will happen next in the story and if the story reminds her/him of any personal experience or of any book read previously. Most of all, enjoy your time together and be assured you are helping your child become a good reader.

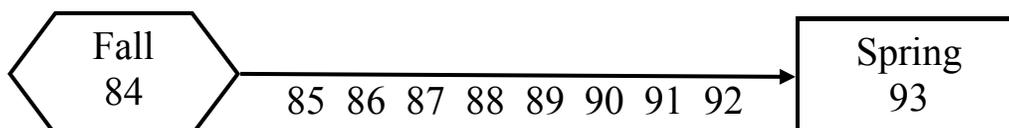
We would like to stress how very important it is for parents to model a love of reading to their children.

Reading: The Key to Success in School

It is so very important that you make sure that your child spends at least 20-30 minutes each day in some type of reading activity. The reading activity could be your child reading to you, your child reading silently to her/himself, you reading to your child, or any combination of these activities. Making a commitment to spend this short amount of time every day on a reading activity will pay off in the long run for your child.

Range of Typical Reading Levels in Fifth Grade

The expected reading level for children in the fall of fifth grade is 84. Children are expected to progress through the levels that are noted on the range below so that at the end of the school year, they are reading at level 93. It is important to note that some children will have scores that are above or below the grade-level expectation.



Helping Your Child Grow as a Reader

About the Reading Levels

Below are short descriptions or characteristics of books at the levels that are listed on the previous page. If you look at the lists below starting at the top and reading down to the bottom, you will notice that the reading material gets increasingly more difficult as the school year unfolds. You'll also see that the higher levels will provide more challenging text for your child to read.



Choosing a Book for Your Child to Read

We have given you some suggestions of books for your child to read. Just find your child's Independent Reading Level (on the report card) and look below for books at that level. The books are all available at the White Plains Public Library. When you go there, ask the librarian to help you find these and other similar books. We encourage you to visit your school's library too to find great books for your child. Look in your child's book bag for books from your child's classroom library. It's good practice for your child to read out loud to you and also to read silently to her/himself.

If your child receives a DRA score of 84-87...

The books usually have 8-20 pages per chapter and the chapters build on and refer back to one another. The main idea of the paragraphs are not as obvious. The dialogue is lengthy and the speaker is often not identified. A student's prior knowledge is important for comprehension. There is very little or no visual support.

Suggested Books:

Blubber by J. Blume
Harriet the Spy by L. Fitzhugh
The Islander by C. Rylant
Joey Pigza series by J. Gantos
The Man Who Was Poe by Avi
The Bridge to Terabithia by K. Paterson
The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe by C.S. Lewis

If your child receives a DRA score of 88-92...

The books have themes that are mature and cause reader to question, wonder and reflect on what was read. The story contains a fast moving and complex plot and the tense might change throughout. The plot includes foreshadowing, flashbacks, and suspense.

Suggested Books:

Alice series by P. R. Naylor
Ginger Pye by E. Estes
Jerry Spinelli books
Jean Craighead George books

If your child receives a DRA score of 93...

The books have text and chapters that are long, in fact, the length of book might exceed 200 pages. The language is rich in vocabulary and many characters are involved in developing the action of the story. There are sophisticated/mature themes and scenes and characters might continuously change.

Suggested Books:

Harry Potter series by J. K. Rowling
Esperanza Rising by P. Muñoz-Ryan
Everything on a Waffle by P. Horvath