

Developmental Reading Assessment (DRA)[™]

Fourth Grade



The Developmental Reading Assessment (DRA)[™] 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 fourth 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.

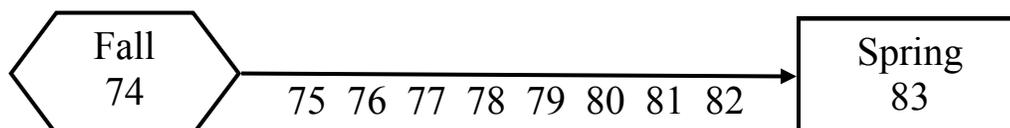
We would like to stress how very important it is for parents to model a love of reading to their children.

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 Fourth Grade

The expected reading level for children in the fall of fourth grade is 74. 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 83. 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 74-78...

These books contain chapters of usually 3-16 pages each. The chapters build on and refer back to one another and may contain idiomatic expressions. The characters have internal thoughts and the plot suggests interesting themes.

Suggested Books:

Anastasia series by L. Lowry
The Big Wave by P. S. Buck
Dragon series by J. K. Koller
Help! series by T. Strasser
Joshua T. Bates series by S. Shreve
Junebug by A. Mead
Little House on the Prairie by L. I. Ingalls

If your child receives a DRA score of 79-81...

Books at this level include many different genres and the themes are more mature. The story may emphasize character motivation and the writing is more descriptive. The plot may contain suspense and the tense of story may change throughout story. The characters are engaging and their progress is believable.

Suggested Books:

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory by R. Dahl
The Trumpet of the Swan by E. B. White
Non-fiction books by J. Fritz
Charlotte's Web by E. B. White
Endangered series by D. Taylor
Hatchet by G. Paulsen
Fig Pudding by R. Fletcher

If your child receives a DRA score of 82 or 83...

The books at this level include many different genres and the text and chapters are usually 12-23 pages long. The language is rich in vocabulary and contains metaphors. The books have major and minor characters and sophisticated themes. Children may learn life lessons through relationships between the characters in the story.

Suggested Books:

My Teacher series by B. Coville
The Twits by R. Dahl
From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler by E. L. Konigsburg
Taking Sides by G. Soto
The Van Gogh Café by C. Rylant