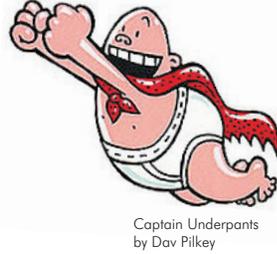


Tips for Selecting Books when working with Struggling Readers



Favorite Subject or Special Interest

Books are available on many different topics and levels. Your reader will be more willing to read a book that's about a topic they care about. Both non-fiction topics, and favorite characters from either books or tv are readily available in many reading levels.

Books in a Series

A series is a sequence of books that typically have the same characters in every book. They come in all reading levels. They are a great choice because kids are comfortable with familiar characters. They also become familiar with the writing style and flow of the books, making it much easier to start a new one.

Small Doses of Reading for Quick Hits of Success

Start your sessions with something short and fun to empower your reader. Success will build confidence, and start you off on the right foot. Try a joke book, a poem, a short story, or have them read a favorite picture book story.

Offer Choice

The public library has a much larger collection of books than your reader's school library. Go to the library, and work with the librarian to select a bag of different types of books to bring to your next session.

Look through all the books with your reader and decide which one to try. Preview the books together by reading the flap, or the blurb on the back, flip through the books to get a feel for them.

Low Level, High Interest

Upper elementary students may be embarrassed by, and unwilling to read books at their reading level that are written for younger kids. Look for books that are at a lower level with subject matter that will interest an older reader.

A few Series to try for 5th & 6th graders are: *Big Nate* by Lincoln Peirce, *Dork Diaries* by Rachel Russell, *Popularity Papers* by Amy Ignatow, *The 39 Clues* by various authors, *Amulet* by Kazu Kibuishi, *Captain Underpants* by Dav Pilkey, and *The Time Warp Trio* by John Scieszka. There are many others, ask a librarian for more suggestions until you find the right fit!

A few Series to try with 3rd & 4th graders are: *Ricky Ricotta's Mighty Robots* by Dav Pilkey, *The Critter Club* by Callie Barkley, *Babymouse* by Jennifer Holm, *DC Super Heroes chapter books* by various authors, and *Bad Kitty chapter books* by Nick Bruel.

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