

## Comprehension Challenges- Levels I-N

### **Comprehension Challenges for Level I Books**

- Inferences made by using picture clues
- Handling more descriptive language
- Some stories may have a problem and solution
- Some short-term predicting can be done

### **Comprehension Challenges for Level J Books**

- There are 1 or 2 main characters. Some secondary characters are introduced
- Long-term predictions can be done
- Pictures are less supportive so readers have to rely on text to understand the story and solve words
- More descriptive words require more visualization
- Simple metaphors are used in some stories (ex: The *forever* sea)
- Chapters will be more continuous than episodic. Readers have to hold on to the story over many pages
- Stories often contain a problem and solution
- Readers must understand one-dimensional characters, inferring character traits based on their actions or dialogue
- Readers must pay attention to relationships between characters
- Readers can make inferences about characters feelings and wants
- When chapters have titles can use them to predict and understand main idea
- When chapters do not have titles, readers may need to give the chapters titles after reading them. This helps with main idea

### **Comprehension Challenges for Level K Books**

- Chapters are continuous and less often episodic.
- Readers can make inferences about characters by paying attention to the character's actions and words.
- There is a wide variety of ways to assign dialogue. (cried, sighed, hollered)
- Stories have more events for readers to hold on to.
- Most stories only 1 or 2 main characters.
- Main characters can be more complex. Minor characters are not.
- Readers may have to reach outside their own experience to understand the characters.
- The settings may be out of reader's typical experience.
- Readers may have to follow characters through scene changes.
- Readers need to identify and understand problem and solution.
- Books may have themes or messages that readers must infer.
- Readers need to know how to summarize multiple events.

### **Comprehension Challenges for Level L Books**

- Characters are multi-dimensional. (Horrible Harry is mostly horrible but he sometimes does generous things.) They also may act in ways that don't make sense or are surprising.
- Secondary characters have more complexity in these books.
- Readers need to keep track of more characters.
- There could be multiple settings that may change the mood of the story.

- There can be unassigned or split dialogue. Readers have to keep track of who is speaking.
- There may be lessons, messages or themes that readers need to infer.
- Readers have to keep track of the events across longer chapters and longer stories.
- Readers make predictions based on prior knowledge as well as illustrations.
- Readers still might need to use pictures to enhance the meaning of the stories.
- Stories may have more details so readers have to determine what is important.

### **Comprehension Challenges for Level M Books**

- There are more well-developed characters.
- Readers need to work harder to understand the problem and solution. Problems and solutions may be revealed in stages. More events or scene changes may lead up problem and/or solution.
- More background knowledge is needed to understand the story.
- Readers need to infer not just about character but about the plot. Some things are “shown” not “told”.
- Characters may talk in slang or with an accent.
- There may be more vocabulary.
- Characters may develop over time.
- Characters may change their mind or feelings.

### **Comprehension Challenges for Level N Books**

- The main character is more complex. (has contradictions like real people)
- Minor play more of a role in the main character’s “journey”.
- There is a wide use of idioms and expressions. (Words may say one thing and mean another.)
- Characters may use sarcasm.
- The plot is not always linear. There may be flashbacks.
- Readers need to make inferences about characters’ motivations.
- Readers make short-term and long-term predictions.
- Characters undergo more meaningful change.
- Readers have to take into account lots of information in order to make judgments or evaluations. (dialogue, characters’ reactions to the main character, etc.) Things are not so cut and dried.
- Themes are much more mature and may be related to social issues. (divorce, bullying, loneliness, poverty)
- Character may not always get what they want even though the problem is resolved.
- Readers need to work harder to identify what’s making the problem worse and what’s contributing to the resolution.
- Readers empathize and identify with the characters even though their situations are different.