

## FIVE FINGER TEST

To check if a book is the right level for you

1. Open the book to the middle. Choose a full page of text.
2. Read the page to yourself or aloud.
3. Put up one finger for each word you don't know. Start with your pinky finger.
4. If you get to your thumb (five fingers up), the book is too hard.
5. If you do not get any fingers up, but are sounding out many words, the book is too hard.

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Dear Parents,

The Pennsylvania Department of Education has recommended that every student read 25 books per year in order to develop strong reading abilities. We want to join the state in encouraging students to read a variety of books on their own. For students to reach this goal, they need to find books that are "JUST RIGHT". To help students find these books, they have been taught the "five finger" test. The child chooses a book that interests him or her. He or she then reads a full page out loud. As the child reads, he/she should count on their fingers each unknown word. If there are five or more unknown words on this page, the book is too challenging. If the child knows all the words, the book is too easy. If there are two or three unknown words on the page, the child has found a "just right" book.

When reading a "just right" book

- \* the child should read at the same speed as he/she talks;
- \* the reading should be smooth, not choppy;
- \* the child should read with expression;
- \* the child should be able to tell you about the book.

Children sometimes like to read easy books for pure enjoyment. This is fine, but just like we need a variety of food in our diet, they need a variety of books in their reading diet. Encourage them to try something harder.

If your child chooses a book that is too difficult, read the book with the child or read to the child. Again, however, guide the child towards "just right" books.

Reading is vitally important in school and in life. We hope that you will join the staff here at W-T in encouraging students to read "just right" books.

Sincerely,

Deb Dinsmore  
Building Reading Specialist