



The Language Arts block is divided into three key components: Whole-Group Instruction, Small-Group instruction and Writers' Workshop.

Whole Group Instruction

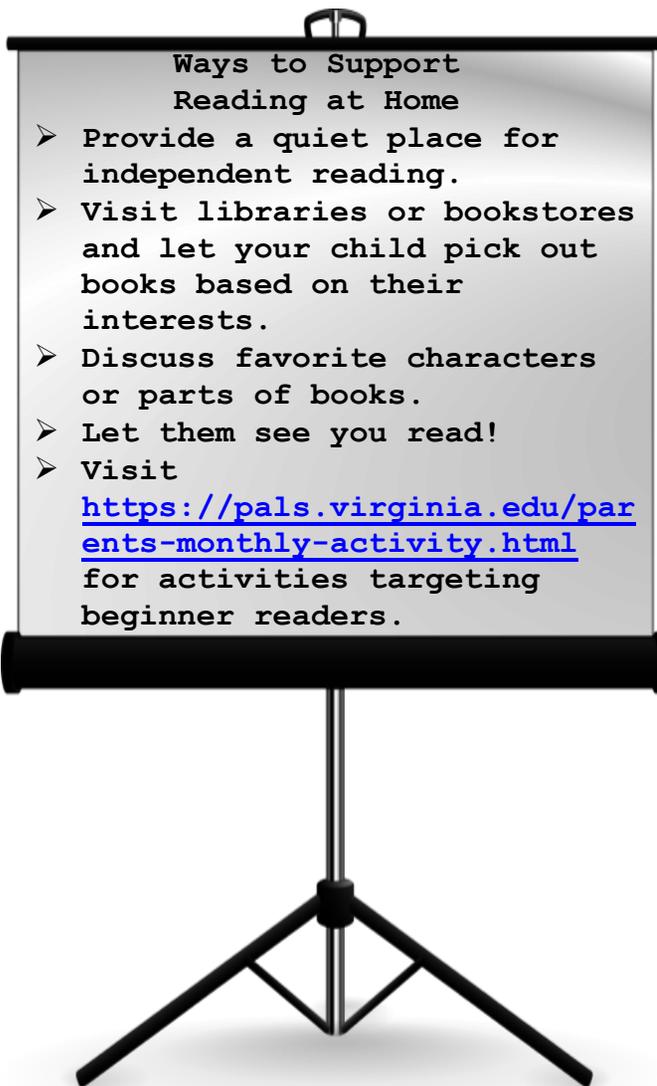
Teachers cover a majority of the SOLs during Whole Group instruction. Our reading series is called *Journeys* (published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt). *Journeys* provides a variety of stories across many genres. The stories used during whole-group instruction are on-grade level.

Small Group Instruction

During small-group instruction, teachers work with students on their instructional reading level. Groups usually consist of 3-6 students, are differentiated, and change based on on-going assessments. Teachers target specific skills and reading strategies based on your child's reading ability.

Writers' Workshop

During Writers' Workshop, your child learns the process of writing from brainstorming to publishing. Teachers collect writing samples throughout the year to monitor progress.



Ways to Support Reading at Home

- Provide a quiet place for independent reading.
- Visit libraries or bookstores and let your child pick out books based on their interests.
- Discuss favorite characters or parts of books.
- Let them see you read!
- Visit <https://pals.virginia.edu/parents-monthly-activity.html> for activities targeting beginner readers.



PARENTS' GUIDE TO READING INSTRUCTION & LEVELS

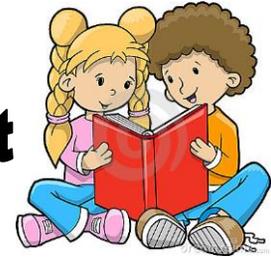


Adapted from Leslie & Fisher
2014

Roanoke City Public Schools
Garner, Thompson, Wimberly,
District Literacy Specialists
Updated 2016



Reading Chart



Reading Levels

RCPS uses Fountas & Pinnell's Guided Reading in our schools to level our students for independent & small-group instruction. The levels range alphabetically from A to Z, with level A representing the lowest level and level Z the highest based on increased complexity of the text and picture support. Teachers use assessments to locate three levels per student: independent, instructional, and frustration.

"The more that you read,
the more things you will
know. The more things
that you learn, the more
places you'll go."

-Dr. Seuss

Use this chart to locate which level is considered "on-grade level" for your child by the end of the year. See our child's teacher for their most up-to-date reading level.

Independent Level/ "On My Own" Books

These books are relatively easy to read and understand without any help from an adult. Students can read these books independently.



Instructional Level/ "Just Right" Books

These books challenge out students and some support from an adult is needed. Small-group instruction is based on the instructional level of our students.

Frustration Level/ "Too Hard" Books

Students will read these books much more slowly, have trouble decoding the words, and not be able to consistently comprehend the story. We do not use books at this level during independent and small-group instructional time.

READING
is to the mind what
EXERCISE
is to the body.

-Sir Richard Steele

Grade	End-of-Year Grade Level Expectations
K	D or higher
1	J or higher
2	M or higher
3	P or higher
4	S or higher
5	V or higher

Use this website to find books on your child's reading level!

<http://www.scholastic.com/bookwizard/>