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### Cracking the Case on Age-Appropriate Literature

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# CRACKING THE CASE ON AGE-APPROPRIATE LITERATURE

Sara Neumann

# Purpose

- Create a guide for educators as they select books for elementary students learning to read.

\*Disclaimer\*

Recommendations are general, so they may not apply to every child in every classroom. Take into consideration a child's individual reading needs first and foremost.

# Process

- Identify Criteria
  - Leveled Texts vs. Decodable Texts
  - Vocabulary
  - Illustration
  - Format
  - Characters
  - Plot
- Research
- Evaluate Criteria per Grade Level

# Kindergarten

- Leveled Texts vs. Decodable Texts
- Vocabulary – to expand listening vocabulary
- Illustration – central role
- Format – picture books
- Characters – few and simple
- Plot – active, straight-forward

# 1<sup>st</sup> Grade

- Decodable Texts
- Vocabulary – simple, easy to understand
- Illustration – facilitate understanding
- Format – decodable readers
- Characters – relatable, aspirational
- Plot – fast, creative, exciting

# 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade

- Leveled Texts vs. Decodable Texts – based on proficiency
- Vocabulary – decodable
- Illustration – enhance story
- Format – early readers
- Characters – more numerous, simple
- Plot – focused on problem and resolution

# 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade

- Leveled Texts
- Vocabulary – wider variety
- Illustration – less frequent
- Format – chapter books
- Characters – more complex
- Plot – fast paced, more complex



# 4<sup>th</sup> Grade

- Leveled Texts
- Vocabulary – wide variety, complex
- Illustration – nearly non-existent
- Format – chapter books
- Characters – realistic and relatable
- Plot – slower, more developed

# 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

- Leveled Texts
- Vocabulary – large range, aligned with level
- Illustration – non-existent
- Format – chapter books
- Characters – positive moral examples
- Plot – characters are central, layered plot

# 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

- Leveled Texts
- Vocabulary – varied and advanced
- Illustration – non-existent
- Format – chapter/young adult
- Characters – based on interest
- Plot – complex and mature



THANK YOU!