



# Valley Collaborative

## Literacy Blog

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### “How do I get books in my child’s hands during the school closure?”

During these confusing times are you looking to broaden your literacy experiences in your home? Finding ways to enrich reading opportunities in the home can be overwhelming: there are so many resources out there and it is hard to know where to begin. Getting books into your students’ hands is a great place to start. Here at Valley Collaborative we are committed to holding literacy needs as a high priority and will continue to support parents, guardians and our students.

Matching your child to an appropriately challenging and interesting book may sound daunting. If you and your child are interested, Valley’s Literacy Team has put together a list of frequently asked questions as a guide for finding materials during the school closure.

- *What is an appropriately challenging book for my child?*
  - Your child’s teacher likely has access to your child’s reading level. If your child took a reading assessment during the school year then you can find reading material using your child’s reading level. Valley uses [Fountas & Pinnell](#) (A-Z) and Lexile (0L-1700L) for both student reading levels and book difficulty level. These systems are widely used, and there are resources for finding books at each level. If your child is reading at a level M, find books at M or slightly below. If your child reads at 800L, look for books -100L or +50L (700L-850L). Your school’s reading teacher can help. See the chart below for comparisons between the two levelling systems.
- *Where can I find books at a specific level?*
  - There are many [resources](#) available because Lexile and Fountas & Pinnell are so widely used. Valley also has a [list of books](#) (by level and genre) that are available on site.
  - [Lexile](#): Using the “Find a Book” feature on Lexile.com, you can search for books using your student’s Lexile score. You can also search for books based on categories, and create lists of books relevant to your student. If you have a book and you’re wondering if it is right for your student, type the book into the search bar for a Lexile measure.
  - [Scholastic Book Wizard](#): Scholastic’s Book Wizard allows you to search and browse books using multiple reading level systems. For Fountas & Pinnell, choose “guided reading”. You can select your student’s current level (A-Z) and

browse through books at that level. You can also search for books based on Lexile. If you have a book and you're wondering if it is right for your student, type the book into the search bar for a measurement.

- Book Lists: Many websites offer lists of books compiled by both students and teachers. [YALSA](#) offers many book lists for Young Adult readers. [Good Reads](#) features lists like [historical fiction](#) and [epic fantasy](#). Students can create accounts and personalize their interests and suggestions.
- *Our library is closed and we have no books at home. What can we do?*
  - Websites like [www.overdrive.com](http://www.overdrive.com) allow students to access eBooks and audio books online or through the Kindle for free. You can also arrange books to be picked up at a Valley Collaborative location.
- *Does my student need to be reading exactly at their level?*
  - It is perfectly fine if your student is reading something below their level, especially if they are enjoying it! On the contrary, if they are interested in a text that is higher than their approximate reading level but they are engaged, that is alright, also. In these cases you want to be reading with them, helping them with the “tricky” words, talking about vocabulary they may not know, and making sure they are following along with the actual text. In short, it is important to have an idea of their reading level so that they are not reading text independently that is too hard or too easy--this can quickly lead to them getting discouraged or bored.
- *Should I make my student answer questions during/after reading?*
  - Not officially. Instead, try to reinforce the idea that reading is a [social event](#). People like to talk about reading--what they've learned or how they would react in a character's shoes. Use this time to try to cultivate a love of reading. If you can, model reading behavior at home. Start a book yourself. Make reading part of the routine. Talk about what you're reading and get the conversation going. Read the same book as they are and keep up “book club” conversations, go beyond reading for plot and make it a book for reading for thinking for everyone.

At the end of this document is a helpful chart for comparing Fountas & Pinnell scores with Lexile scores. Your school's reading teachers are a great resource for any questions.

Stay safe and healthy!

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Fountas & Pinnell	Lexile	Fountas & Pinnell	Lexile
A	BR-10L	M	600L-850L
B	40L-160L	N	660L-930L
C	40L-160L	O	790L-940L
D	160L-310L	P	790L-940L
E	160L-310L	Q	820L-1030L
F	300L-450L	R	820L-1030L
G	300L-450L	S	890L-1080L
H	430L-530L	T	890L-1080L
I	430L-530L	U-V	890L-1080L
J	510L-620L	W-X	920L-1120L
K	510L-620L	Y-Z	920L-1120L
L	530L-810L		

\*\*This is how each level system that is used at the Valley Collaborative compares. If you have a book rated with a Lexile but also have an approximate F&P instructional reading level assigned to your student, refer to this chart.