

**Choosing the Right Book**

Choosing a book that is not too easy and not too difficult can be a challenge for a student. In class, we use the AR level of a book to help us determine of the book is an appropriate level. To check a book’s AR level, visit [www.arbookfind.com](http://www.arbookfind.com)

If there is no AR level available, we use the “5 Finger Rule” to decide if a pleasure reading book is at an appropriate level for a student. Here’s what a student should do:

* Pick a book that looks interesting and open to a page at random.
* Read the page and each time you see a word that you don’t know, put up one finger.
* When you finish reading the page, see how many fingers are raised:
  + 1 finger – Easy reading
  + 2 fingers – Easier, appropriate reading
  + 3 fingers – Appropriate reading
  + 4 fingers – Challenging, appropriate reading
  + 5 or more fingers – Difficult reading

While I recommend that students read books that are at their appropriate reading level, remember that a pleasure-reading book does not necessarily need to be discounted just because it is an easier or a challenging book.

Happy reading!