

HIAS English Team

Book Banding Guidance

March 2016



The following information has been gathered from two primary sources:
'Which Book and Why: Using Book Bands and book levels for guided reading in Key Stage 1 (Edited by Sue Bodmin and Glen Franklin. Published by the Institute of Education Press 2014) and Pearsons Bug Club (<http://www.bugclub.co.uk/>)

'Organising books in a gradient of challenge enables us to select texts to cater for the range of attainments within a class...'

'Colour Book Bands provide a structure within a range of fiction and non-fiction titles from different reading series can be accommodated. This enables teachers to offer children a rich and varied experience of successful text reading.'

'Which Book and Why' (pg 102)

Book Band Progression

Each Book Band has its own colour. The chart below gives an indication of progression across the Book Band within a Primary School.

Book Band	Reading Age	Age Related Expectations						PM Benchmark	RR	L&S Phonics
		R	1	2	3	4	5			
LILAC	< 5.0								Aligned to Reading Recovery	Phase 1
PINK Band 1	5.0 – 6.5							1, 2		Phase 2
RED Band 2								3, 4, 5		Phase 3
YELLOW Band 3								6, 7, 8		Phase 3-4
BLUE Band 4								9, 10, 11		Phase 4-5
GREEN Band 5								12, 13, 14		Phase 5
ORANGE Band 6	6.5 – 7.0							15, 16		Phase 5
TURQUIOISE Band 7	7.0 – 7.5							17, 18		Phase 5-6
PURPLE Band 8	7.5 – 8.0							19, 20		Phase 5-6
GOLD Band 9	8.0 – 8.5							21, 22		
WHITE Band 10	8.5 – 9.0							23, 24		
LIME Band 11	9.0 – 9.5							25, 26		
KS2 BROWN	10.0 – 10.5							27	The KS2 colour Bands indicated follow Pearsons Bug Club (http://www.bugclub.co.uk/)	
KS2 GREY	10.5 – 11.0							28		
KS2 BLUE	11.0 – 11.5							29		
KS2 RED	11.5 – 12.0							30		

Light Grey = below ARE
 Dark Grey = within ARE
 Black = exceeding ARE

Lilac Band

Lilac band books are wordless books that tell a story through pictures alone. They help children to develop speaking and listening skills through creating and telling stories.

Pink Band

Pink band is the very first level of reading books which has words. The number of words increases slightly as your child progresses through the reading level.

Red Band

Red band books have a slightly increased number of words, an increase in the number of pages and slightly more complex story lines.

The growing complexity in the story lines is reinforced through the development of inference and prediction using visual literacy.

Yellow Band

New learning in Yellow band books includes a slightly increased number of words and a move away from familiar experiences.

Yellow books require the reader to deploy some inference skills, e.g. for humour, and have more variation in sentence structure, including sentences with more than one clause.

Blue Band

Blue band books have a slightly increased number of words and some variation in sentence beginnings. They may use ellipses and other punctuation. The story lines are more complex, including more than one event, and the stories are less dependent on picture cues.

Green Band

The number of words increases slightly in Green band books. Stories have a wider variety of characters and events which develop over a number of pages. Sentences may include lists of things or actions, and adverbs are used frequently to begin sentences. The books begin to use capital letters to support reading with expression.

The growing complexity in the story lines is reinforced through the development of inference and prediction using visual literacy.

Orange Band

At Orange band, the page count increases to challenge and encourage reading stamina. There is an increased use of dialogue to encourage reading with expression.

Orange band books introduce some complex sentences (use of 'if', 'so' and 'because') and include italics to show emphasis. Slightly more literary language is used. Children are increasingly encouraged to infer meaning from the text in order to gain full enjoyment from the story.

Turquoise Band

Turquoise band books include an increasing range of adjectives and more descriptive verbs to replace 'said'.

Turquoise books include words chosen for appropriateness and impact rather than decodability, with more extended descriptions. Paragraphs begin to develop and more unusual and challenging vocabulary is included.

Purple Band

Purple band books include an increased proportion of longer sentences, with a more challenging vocabulary. Some Purple books have short chapters to challenge and encourage reading stamina.

Purple books include longer and more complex sentences with the inclusion of complex (i.e. 'when') and simple (i.e. 'and') connectives. Story features such as plot, character and setting are developed in more detail, and the text in the non-fiction books is presented in a variety of ways.

Gold Band

Gold band books include more sophisticated and challenging vocabulary, including word play and the introduction of figurative language. Some Gold books have longer chapters for more sustained reading.

Children reading at this band are confident independent readers who can tackle increasingly complex language, story structures and text layout.

White Band

In White band books there is a more sophisticated use of narrative voice. Clauses in longer sentences are separated by commas to encourage developing intonation. Some books have longer chapters for more sustained reading.

The stories at White band encourage children to empathise with the characters and consider why they behave as they do, and how they change during the course of the story. The non-fiction books are divided into sections that require more sustained reading and there is increased challenge in the layout of the information.

KS1/2 Lime Band

Lime band books include a widening range of writing styles and an increased variation in sentence structure, including –ing clauses and longer sentences with more than two clauses

Children reading at Lime are able to interpret more sophisticated word plays and puns. The narrator's voice in a fiction story may be distinguished from the characters' voice through figurative, idiomatic and literary language. The story is often told through dialogue and action to 'show' instead of 'tell' as the plot develops.

KS2 Brown Band

Children reading at Brown band should be able to:

- interpret more sophisticated word-play and puns
- distinguish the narrator's voice in a fiction story from the characters' voices through figurative, idiomatic and literary language
- understand a story that is told through dialogue and action to 'show' instead of 'tell' the plot

KS2 Grey Band

Children reading at Grey band will be able to interpret more sophisticated word-play and puns. At this stage, they should be able to:

- explain a character's motivations
- discuss the points of view of the character and the narrator
- better understand a range of narration styles

KS2 Blue Band

Children reading at Blue band will be able to gather information from more than one place in the text and use inference based on what is shown rather than being told. This allows for greater complexity in building character and setting.

KS2 Red Band

Children reading at Red band will be able to synthesise information from different places in a text. They are beginning to recognise how layers of meaning allow for the build-up of humour or tension and are able to discuss how the author has achieved the effects.