

Characteristics of Texts and Independent Reading Behaviors for the End of 2nd Grade

Text Characteristics:

- More complex themes
- Many multi-syllable words
- Small print size that varies
- Complex sentence structures
- Events in chapter build over the text
- Small print and little spaces between words
- More chapter books with fewer illustrations
- Fiction contains more characters that speak with dialogue not assigned
- Chapter books with 60-100 pages (short chapters and fewer pictures)
- Informational (non-fiction) texts have a variety of text features
- Full range of genres (biographies are included)
- Texts require more background knowledge
- Vocabulary may be introduced to create feeling or mood
- The author's style may be clearly marked by use of words, sentence structure, or descriptions of characters or humor in fiction

Readers at this stage:

- Remember plot episodes
- Rely less on illustrations
- Follow dialogue assigned by pronouns
- Read with fluidity, phrasing and expression
- Connect new concepts to background knowledge
- Use text to understand technical vocabulary (non-fiction)
- Follow the changes in characters and more sophisticated plots
- Use a variety of comprehension strategies (questioning, determining importance, visualizing, inferring and synthesizing) to make meaning of text

And who opened the door? The old woman who had given Jack the magic beans!
"You should leave," she said quickly.
"A big, mean ogre lives here and he likes to eat little boys like you."
"But I climbed all the way up here and I haven't had anything to eat today," said Jack.



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"Well, sit down and I'll make you something to eat. You'll have to eat quickly," said the woman. Suddenly they heard someone coming. *THUMP! THUMP! THUMP!*
"Oh no!" said the woman. "The ogre! Hide. Quick! Climb into the oven so he doesn't see you."



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Fiction Text



Non-fiction Text