

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

## Text Characteristics:

- Print size decreases
- Large amounts of dialogue
- Illustrations offer less support
- Longer, more complex chapter books
- Various connotations of words (other meanings)
- Requires quick solving of new words, including three or four syllables
- Words with more complex spelling patterns and letter-sound relationships
- Language patterns are more complex
- Fiction books have one plot, with many episodes carried out over a long period of time
- Large amount of dialogue used to determine what is going on in the plot
- Illustrations are placed throughout the text and are used to help students visualize

Dad read the letter.  
"Mmmmm,"  
he said.  
"I'll think about it."



Just then, there was a knock at the door.

"Now who could that be?" asked Dad,  
as he walked toward the door.

Lea peeked out the window.  
She saw a lady getting into a little van.  
Dad opened the door,  
and there on the doorstep was a small cage.  
Inside the cage was a little brown rabbit!

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Fiction Text

## Readers at this stage:

- Follow assigned dialogue
- Self-correct when necessary
- Read silently for longer periods of time
- Use skills and strategies effectively
- Read with fluidity, phrasing and expression
- Sustain interest and fluency on longer texts
- Can attend to text over multiple sittings (shorter chapter books)
- Solve unfamiliar words or concepts "on the run" without detracting from meaning
- Use text and illustrations to understand technical vocabulary (non-fiction)

### What Are Needs? What Are Wants?

What are **needs**? A family goes to a store. The family buys food. Food is a need.



▲ This family buys food at a store.

Water is a need, too. People cannot live without water. Things people cannot live without are needs.



▲ People must drink water every day.

Non-fiction Text