

# READY★TO★READ



## PARENT GUIDE

### Level Two ★ Superstar Readers

#### ALL CHILDREN CAN BE READING STARS!

The key to helping your children become reading stars is finding books that they love. Simon & Schuster has created a brand-new system that will help you do just that! The four "Be a Reading Star!" levels make it easy to determine which of the many wonderful Ready-to-Read books are best suited for your young readers.

This guide explains how to get the most out of the "Be a Reading Star!" levels. It also provides tips for improving your children's reading skills, ideas for motivating your children to read, and suggestions for creating fun, reading-related activities and projects for the whole family. Whether your children start out as Rising Stars, Stars, Superstars, or Megastars, the Ready-to-Read books will help make their reading experience out of this world!

**RISING STAR!** ★ Pre-Level One ★ Recognizing Words

**STAR!** ★ Level One ★ Starting to Read

**SUPERSTAR!** ★ Level Two ★ Reading Independently

**MEGASTAR!** ★ Level Three ★ Reading Proficiently





### How the “Be a Reading Star!” Leveling System Works

Each Ready-to-Read book has been assigned a level, from Pre-Level 1 (Rising Star) to Level 3 (Megastar). When you see the level on a book, you’ll know instantly whether it’s likely to be too easy, too hard, or just right for your child.

**Tip:** You can determine if a level is too high by having your child read the first page or paragraph. If they miss three to five words (depending on the length of the passage) the text is on a frustration level. Books need to be on a child’s “independent reading level” in order to help a child move through the levels.

#### Pre-Level One: Rising Star Reader

- ★ Shared reading
- ★ Familiar characters
- ★ Simple words

Does your child enjoy listening to you read and sometimes say some of the words along with you? The books at this level—filled with characters that kids know and love, such as Mouse and Lowly Worm — are just right for your child.

#### Level One: Star Reader

- ★ Easy sight words and words to sound out
- ★ Simple plot and dialogue
- ★ Familiar topics and themes

Can your child recognize some simple words? Is he or she starting to sound out words and sentences? Olivia, Mike the Knight, Friday, and many more classic and new characters are waiting for your child at this level.

#### Level Two: Superstar Reader

- ★ Longer sentences
- ★ Simple chapters
- ★ High-interest vocabulary words

**Is your child beginning to read longer sentences and stories on his or her own? At this level, your child can learn and grow with The Smurfs, Henry and Mudge, Annie and Snowball, and many more loveable characters.**

#### Level Three: Megastar Reader

Longer, more complex story plots and character development  
 Variety of challenging vocabulary words  
 More difficult sentence structure

Is your child a confident reader? Is he or she ready for a challenge? In the books at this level, many fun and exciting characters will take them on journeys they won’t soon forget.



### How to Pick Books Your Children Will Love

Once you've determined the right level for your child, it's time to pick a book. Every Ready-to-Read level has lots of fantastic books to choose from—so how do you figure out which ones to select? Try these ideas:

- Think of the kinds of books your child has enjoyed reading in the past, and find more like them. For example, does he/she enjoy books about animals? Consider trying the Mouse books, Eric Carle's *Have You Seen My Cat?*, or the new *Friday the Scaredy Cat* series.
- Choose books about experiences that your child can relate to. For example, did he/she recently enjoy playing outside in the sun? Try *Henry and Mudge in the Green Time* from the Henry and Mudge series.
- What does your child love to do? If she's interested in dancing, try the Katy Duck books. If he likes knights, trolls, and dragons, try *Mike and Trollee in Trouble* from our Mike the Knight series.
- Is your child in a "reading rut"? Is he/she tired of reading about the same few topics over and over again? If so, try something completely fun and new. The Smurfs books are sure to create some big laughs!
- When you were a child, which books did you love? Maybe you grew up reading about the sweet adventures of Henry and Mudge or Eloise? Try sharing one of your favorites with your child—your love for these books will be contagious!





### Tips for Reading with Your Child

- Level Two books contain longer sentences and more difficult words. If your children get stuck on a word, consider giving them the answer and letting them move on. Sometimes it's best to let children sustain their reading with little interruption. Don't forget to review the word and its meaning later!
- Encourage your Superstar readers to monitor their own understanding. In other words, help them learn to recognize when they encounter something they don't quite understand. One way to do this is to have them stop periodically and summarize what they've read so far.
- Help your children develop ways to address misunderstandings. For example, if they're feeling confused, they might reread a few lines, ask you what a certain word or expression means, or look at an illustration for clues.
- Encourage your Superstar readers to visualize what they read. Have them sketch what they see in their mind, and help them write brief captions for the sketches.

### Motivating and Encouraging Your Child to Read

- Your children will be thrilled to start reading "chapter books"—just like they see older kids reading. Generate extra interest and suspense by reading a new chapter each night. Before you start reading, let your children share what they think will happen next.
- Establish a daily or weekly family reading time. Even if it's only ten or fifteen minutes long, let your children see you reading and enjoying a variety of different books—and be sure to have them participate, too. Make sure everyone has a good book and a quiet, cozy spot to read.
- Use the "Reach for the Stars!" reading chart to keep track of your children's progress. Each time your children finish a new book, add its title to the chart. Have your children read the title aloud and give a quick summary of the book. Then, let them add a sticker to the chart.





### Activities and Projects for the Whole Family

- In *Robin Hill School: Class Picture Day*, Emma is sad because she has to wear an eye patch for her class picture, which will make her look different from all the other kids. “Different is not bad,” her dad tells her. With your children’s help, try to convince Emma that being different is good, not bad. Create a short skit that illustrates this point. To get some ideas for the skit, talk about times when you or your children felt different or out of place. What happened? How did that difference turn out to be a good thing in the end? After you’ve created your skit, practice it a few times and then perform it for neighbors or friends.
- After reading *Robin Hill School: Class Picture Day*, pull out old photograph albums or boxes and have fun looking through them with your children. How many different class photos can you find, and what can you remember about each of those school years? What was your teacher’s name that year? What games or toys did you like to play with? Who were your best friends? If you can’t find class photos, perhaps you have pictures of birthday parties, trips, or other special moments that you can talk about. Your children will be especially excited to see photographs of you as a child!
- After you read through page 18 of *Ruby’s New Home*, stop and talk with your children about how they think the characters can do a better job of sharing Ruby. What should the characters do differently? What rules should they follow? Help your children write a brief letter to Jade, Jordan, and Justin that explains their ideas about sharing. Have your children help you write some of the letters and words. Let them draw a picture to accompany the letter. Then, read the rest of the book to find out how the children end up solving their conflict. In the future, if your children are struggling with sharing, remind them of the advice they gave the characters in *Ruby’s New Home*.



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