

St John's Primary School and Nursery

Book Bands Explained

Oxford Reading Tree	Collins Big Cat / Rigby Star / Lighthouse / Project X	Details	Reading Age	Year Group
Stage 1	Lilac Pink A / B Red A, Band 1A, Band 1B	Lilac: Wordless, simple, short stories, familiar objects and actions Pink A: Simplest text, supporting illustrations, one line per spread, simple phrase-supported pattern Pink B: 4 to 5 word sentences per spread, repeating pattern	3.5 to 4.5 years	Reception
Stage 1+	Red A / B / C, Band 2A, Band 2B	Red A: Slightly longer, repetitive sentences, intro direct speech and speech marks Red B: More text, more variation, direct speech and pre-cueing speech	4.5 to 5 years	Reception
Stage 2	Yellow Band 3	Story lines, time sequence, imaginary happenings, more variation in pattern and vocabulary	4.5 to 5 years	R
Stage 3	Blue Band 4	Less patterns, less repetition, more events, literary language	5 to 5.5 years	1
Stage 4	Green Band 5	Free-flowing, non-repetitive narratives, less familiar and more complex language, more characters	5 to 5.5 years	1
Stage 6	Orange Band 6	More literary language and complex sentence structures, less support from illustrations	5.5 to 6 years	2
Stage 7-8	Turquoise Band 7 Purple Band 8	Longer texts, less supported illustrations, more literary language and paragraphs	6 to 6.5 years	2
Stage 9	Gold Band 9	More words, more complex sentences, wider vocabulary	6.5 to 7 years	2
Stage 10	White Band 10	More complex sentences with subordinate clauses and figurative language	7 to 7.5 years	2
Stage 11	Lime Band 11		7.5 to 8 years	3
	Brown Band		7.5 to 8 years	3
Stage 12-13	Grey Band 12 Copper Band 12	Fluent reader Years 3 to 6: Increasingly challenging range of vocabulary, topics, themes and genres	8 to 9 years	4
Stage 13-14	Dark Blue Band 13 & 14 Topaz Band 13 & 14 Ruby Band 13 & 14	Fluent reader Years 3 to 6: Increasingly challenging range of vocabulary, topics, themes and genres	9 to 10 years	5
Stage 14-16	Dark Red Band 15 & 16		10 to 11 years	6
	Emerald Band 15 & 16		10 to 11 years	6
	Sapphire Band 15 & 16		10 to 11 years	6
Stage 17	Diamond Band 17		10 to 11 years	6
Stage 18	Pearl Band 18	Gifted readers in Years 5 and 6		