KS1 Guided Reading Book Bands Overview

Collins Big Cat

Love Reading

Collins Big Cat KS1 books are levelled to match the Institute of Education Book Bands for Guided Reading.

Book Band	Learning opportunities	Text characteristics	No. of pages	Word count	No. of Collins Big Cat books available
Lilac/Band 0	• Locate title and open front cover. • Relate narrative to own experience. Retell narrative in own words.	• Wordless books. Illustration provides full support for telling story/narrative.	16pp	Approximate word count 0	22
Pink A/Band 1A	• Locate title. Know that left page comes before right. Can turn pages appropriately. • Start to match spoken word to printed word (one-to-one correspondence). • Confirm this matching using a few known words or letters. • Work out the storyline from the illustrations and repeated language patterns.	• Simple, highly predictable text with familiar objects/actions in the same place on each page. • One repetitive, whole-sentence structure that includes at least one high-frequency word. • Reasonably large font size with clear spaces between words. 1–2 lines of text per page. • Illustrations that provide full and direct support for the text and are well separated from it.	16pp	Approximate word count 14–20	22
Pink B/Band 1B	As Pink A but with the following progression: • Use some letters together with meaning to read the text, including CVC words. • Match spoken to printed word (one-to-one correspondence) across 2–3 lines of print. • Show some awareness of mismatches between reading attempts and text.	As Pink A but with the following progression: • Natural language following children's speech patterns. • 1–2 repetitive, whole-sentence structures that each include at least one high-frequency word.	16pp	Approximate word count 20–30	22
Red A/Band 2A	• Consolidate secure control of one-to-one matching on a wide range of texts. • Solve simple words by blending phonemes from left to right and check for meaning, correct syntax, i.e. does it make sense and sound right? Begin to notice own errors. • Start to read in a more phrased manner while maintaining track of the print.	• Slightly longer, highly predictable text involving familiar objects and actions. • Repetitive sentence/phrase patterns that include high-frequency words and simple words that children can solve by blending phonemes following children's speech patterns. • Simple story development (fiction text). Possibly more than one print format (non-fiction).	16pp	Approximate word count 30–40	22
Red B/Band 2B	As Red A but offering slightly more challenge.	As Red A but offering slightly more challenge.	16pp	Approximate word count 40–60	22
Yellow/Band 3	• Follow print with eyes, finger-pointing only at points of difficulty. • Take more note of punctuation for grammar and oral language rhythms. • Cross-check all sources of information while reading, and sometimes self-correct. • Note familiar words and phonemes and use these to get to unknown words.	• Repetition of phrase patterns, ideas and vocabulary, and variation of sentence structure. • Storylines include episodes in a time sequence and framework of familiar experiences. • Some literary conventions, familiar oral language structures, illustrations support the text quite closely. • Non-fiction texts use personal experience and children's language patterns.	16pp	Approximate word count 50–100	29
Blue/Band 4	• Move through text attending to print, meaning, and sentence structure flexibly. • Self-correct more often, rereading to enhance phrasing and clarify precise meaning. • Solve new words using print information and understanding of the text. • Identify constituent parts of unfamiliar two-syllable words to read correctly. • Discuss content in a way that indicates understanding. Manage a variety of genres.	• Variation in sentence patterns and content. Literary language with natural language. • Repeated language patterns are longer, or act as refrains. • Up to six or eight lines of text on a page and more similar-looking words appearing. • Stories have more events. Non-fiction has abstract terms/impersonal sentence structures. • Pictures support storyline rather than convey precise meaning so closely.	16pp	Approximate word count 90–170	30

Book Band	Learning opportunities	Text characteristics	No. of pages	Word count	No. of Collins Big Cat books available
Green/Band 5	• Read fluently with attention to punctuation. • Solve new words using print detail, attending to meaning and syntax. Self-correct. • Manage effectively a growing variety of texts, including non-fiction. • Discuss and interpret character and plot more fully. • Use contents page and glossary in non-fiction books, and locate information.	• Varied, longer sentences, with little repetition of phrases. Repeated, unfamiliar words. • More varied and larger number of characters involved. • Events sustained over several pages with a larger number of words on page. • Less familiar, more specialized vocabulary. Illustrations provide moderate support for fiction. • Print may be located in captions, fact-boxes and diagrams in non-fiction.	24pp	Approximate word count 170–250	22
Orange/Band 6	• Get started on fiction after briefer introductions, without relying on artwork. • Examine non-fiction layout, using contents pages to select sections of a book to read. • Read longer and more complex sentences with a range of punctuation and text layout. • Use familiar syllables to read longer words. Use appropriate terminology in discussion. • Check information in text with illustrations and comment on content. Infer meaning.	• Increased proportion of space allocated to print rather than pictures in fiction. • Illustrations support overall meaning of text. • Longer stories with more literary language. Sentence structures more complex. • Range of text provision, e.g. plays, simple poetry, simple non-fiction of different types. • Non-fiction texts contain more formal sentences and unfamiliar terms and layouts.	24pp	Approximate word count 250–300	22
Turquoise/Band 7	• Extract meaning from the text while reading with less dependence on illustrations. • Use punctuation and text layout to read with expression and control. • Sustain reading through longer sentence structures and paragraphs. • Tackle a higher ratio of complex words with known vocabulary, phonics and syllables. • Monitor own reading, checking and self-correcting while considering text meaning. • Navigate around texts such as indexes, glossaries, and dictionaries.	• More extended descriptions and use of literary phrasing. • More print, more illustrations and layout with elaborated episodes and events. • More unusual and challenging vocabulary, particularly in non-fiction. • Illustrations provide a lower level of support in fictional texts, and include graphs, maps, and diagrams in non-fiction. • Non-fiction texts contain longer, more formal sentences. Some repeated terms.	24pp	Approximate word count 300–500	22
Purple/Band 8	• Adapt to a variety of fiction, non-fiction and poetry with growing independence. • Read silently and rapidly. Use punctuation to keep track of longer sentences. • Solve most unfamiliar words by blending less common digraphs and recognising alternative spellings to read longer and more complex words. Predict content/layout/ story development. • Take more conscious account of literary effects and the formal language of non-fiction. • Begin to consciously use reading to extend speaking, writing, vocabulary and syntax.	• Sentence structures becoming longer and more complex. Wider variety of genre but still illustrated. • Storyline may be more involved and reflect the feelings of the writer. • Some books with short chapters for more sustained reading. • Characters are more distinctive and rounded than at earlier levels. • Non-fiction texts cover an increasing curriculum range and different text formats. • Alphabetically ordered texts, i.e. dictionaries and simple encyclopedias, glossaries, indexes.	24pp	Approximate word count 500–750	22
Gold/Band 9	As Purple, but offering slightly more challenge.	As Purple, but offering slightly more challenge.	24pp	Approximate word count 700–900	22
White/Band 10	• Read silently, sustaining interest in longer text, returning to it easily later. • Use text more fully as a reference and as a model, and find information in texts more flexibly. • Notice the spelling of unfamiliar words and relate to known words. • Show increased awareness of vocabulary and precise meaning. • Express reasoned opinions and interpretations about what is read, and compare texts.	• Storyline or theme sustained over a longer period of time with chapters or subsections. • Sentence structures may be longer, with more subordinate phrases or clauses. • Characters may be more fully developed with more than one point of view expressed. • Information/action implied, not spelled out. May contain more metaphorical or technical language. • Non-fiction texts in a broader context and include more detailed information.	32pp	Approximate word count 1200	18
Lime/Band 11	• Recognise text type and predict general content, returning easily to them after a break. • Read silently, adjusting speed to suit material and monitoring the meaning. • Rerun to make different interpretations of dialogue, complex sentences etc. • Make use of blurbs, glossaries, and indexes to locate information quickly and accurately. • Express reasoned opinions about what is read, and compare texts. • Sustain meaning over many phrases for comprehension due to complex sentences.	• Storyline or theme may be sustained over a longer period of time with chapters or subsections. • More unfamiliar, sophisticated terms including a greater range of verbs to suggest precise meanings. • Widening range of layout, genre, and writing style. • More metaphorical or technical language. • More technical vocabulary not supported directly by illustrations.	32pp	Approximate word count 1500	18

KS2 Guided Reading Book Bands Overview

Book Band	Learning opportunities	No. of pages	Word count	No. of Collins Big Cat books available
Copper/Band 12	Provides more complex plots and longer chapters that develop reading stamina.	32pp	Approximate word count 1500	40
Topaz/Band 13	Offers longer and more demanding reads for children to investigate and evaluate.	32pp	Approximate word count 2000	40
Ruby/Band 14	Gives increasing opportunities for children to develop their skills of inference and deduction.	48pp	Approximate word count 2500	40
Emerald/Band 15	Provides a widening range of genres including science fiction and biography, prompting more ways to respond to texts.	48pp	Approximate word count 3000	40
Sapphire/Band 16	Longer reads to develop children's sustained engagement with texts that are more complex syntactically.	56pp	Approximate word count 4000	36
Diamond/Band 17	More complex, underlying themes to give opportunities for children to understand causes and points of view.	56pp	Approximate word count 5000	36
Pearl/Band 18	Offers fluent readers a complex, substantial text with challenging themes to facilitate sustained comprehension, bridging the gap between a reading programme and longer chapter books.	80pp	Approximate word count 8000	40

We're here to help...