

# The Usborne Reading Programme Framework

	Content	Number of pages	Number of words	Words per page	Sentence length	Themes	Grammar	Vocabulary
<b>First Reading Level One</b>	Short single narrative followed by reading and comprehension puzzles	32	up to 150	up to 10 (1–3 lines)	on average 2–8 words	Classic tales (e.g. Aesop's Fables) and folktales	Present and simple past tenses; modal verb <i>can</i> ; comparative adjectives	Simple everyday vocabulary. familiar items
<b>First Reading Level Two</b>	Single narrative plus character sheets and/or maps, and puzzles	32	up to 250	up to 20 (2–4 lines)	on average 6–10 words	As Level One, including less familiar folktales	As Level One plus future; modal verbs <i>could</i> and <i>must</i> ; comparatives and superlatives	More descriptive and evocative vocabulary. always clear in context
<b>First Reading Level Three</b>	Single narrative with repeated elements, plus character sheets and/or maps, no puzzles	48	up to 450	up to 30 (2–5 lines)	on average 8–12 words	As Level Two plus original fiction and non-fiction (natural history life cycles)	As Level Two plus present and past perfect; range of modal verbs	Powerful verbs and adjectives, clear in context
<b>First Reading Level Four</b>	Single narrative	48	up to 750	up to 40 (3–6 lines)	on average 8–15 words	As Level Three plus classic fairy tales	Full range of tenses	More exotic elements and controlled use of idiom
<b>Young Reading Series One</b>	Several linked stories or one longer narrative in chapters. Direct and indirect speech, intertextual references.	48	1,000–1,500	up to 50 (up to 10 lines)	up to 15 words, varied length but generally short	Fairy tales, fantasy, fiction, non-fiction ("the story of...")	Past tense narratives; avoid passives, embedded clauses, semicolons and colons.	Wide-ranging everyday vocabulary
<b>Young Reading Series Two</b>	Single narrative in chapters. Introduce irony and subplot, allow opportunity for inference and deduction.	64	2,000–2,500	up to 70 (up to 15 lines)	up to 20 words, more varied length	As Series One plus adapted classics	Introduce more challenging sentence structure, including embedded clauses.	More challenging, building on Series One; specialist or technical terms explained.
<b>Young Reading Series Three</b>	Single narrative in chapters. Assume some relevant background knowledge.	64	4,000–5,000	up to 120 (up to 20 lines or full page)	up to 30 words, varied length	History, biographies, classics	Full use of grammatical range, comparable with mainstream contemporary fiction or general journalism.	Building on Series Two, may assume knowledge of specialist or technical terms.