

BLACK

Black banded books are the final level of the Book Band grading system. Children reading at this level are strong, confident readers. They select a book by personal preference and often read for pleasure. Black books will have very few or no illustrations, and have complex text features found in 'real' or non-scheme books. Children at this stage are considered free readers.

PUPIL TARGETS



- Demonstrate a good level of competence in both decoding and comprehension
- Regularly read long chapter books for pleasure
- Read a variety of texts and genres, including a wide range of poetry, plays and textbooks.
- Select their own reading books by using skills, such as reading the blurb and reading a small section of text.
- Recommend books to their peers
- Read poems and plays aloud to show understanding through intonation, tone and volume
- Distinguish between statements of fact and opinion

How to support your child with Black level books

The books at this level will provide a level of challenge which means that it is important that your child is fully engaged with the process of reading and conscious of the structure, language and vocabulary the writer is using and the impact that this has on the reader. Their understanding will be deepened through opportunities to discuss what they have read. You can help them by:

- Continuing to make a time available for regular quiet reading sessions, and reading your book while your child reads.
- Before a reading session, asking your child to find and note down some particular information. It could relate to the plot or it could be something like: a really good descriptive passage; three words which are adventurous; two words you want to use in your next piece of writing; an example of something typical a character does or says; how one character's reaction to another shows their relationship ... These types of questions don't mean you have to read the book yourself, but they help to alert your child to its possibilities. Don't forget to discuss what they found!
- Suggesting that your child invites friends to a 'Book Group'. If they are all reading the same book, you could skim-read the book first and prepare some questions for the book group to discuss. Or perhaps the Book Group could be an opportunity for them to recommend and share new books with each other.