

Determining Independent, Instructional and Frustration Reading Levels



Independent	95% accuracy or above	The student can read the text on his/her own with ease. Very few errors are made during reading and the student easily understands what is read. Reading at this level boosts confidence and improves fluency skills (e.g. expression). Reading text at the independent level is ideal for independent and silent reading.
Instructional	90-95% accuracy	The student needs the support of the teacher or parent. This is the level in which new vocabulary and concepts are introduced and where the greatest progress in reading occurs. Using text at a student's instructional level is ideal for guided reading groups.
Frustration	below 90% accuracy	Decoding words, vocabulary and concepts are too difficult for the student. You may wish to read the text to the student so he/she can be exposed to high level vocabulary as well as listen to a fluent reader.