The Developmental Reading Assessment (DRA) is an individually administered assessment of a child’s reading capabilities. It is a tool to be used by instructors to identify a student’s reading level, accuracy, fluency, and comprehension. Each level listed below has examples of text for your child.
Down to Town by
Joy Cowley

DRA Level 1

These books consist of:

One line of text  Repeated Text
Predictable text  Large spaces between words
Supportive pictures

DRA Level 2.3

These books consist of:

Two or more lines of print  Large spaces between words
Predictable text  Repeated text (last page may be different)
Supportive pictures
Book Levels 4,6

DRA Level 4

These books consist of:

Two or more sentence patterns
Two to five lines of print per page
Supportive pictures
Higher level of vocabulary
More of a story line

DRA Level 6

These books consist of:

Three or more sentence patterns
Two to six lines of print per page
Some picture support (pictures now add to story)
May contain a few unfamiliar words
Ten to twenty pages in length
Book Levels 8, 10

The Dandelion by Brian & Jillian Cutting

DRA Level 8

These books consist of:

Three to eight lines of text per page
Some picture support
Variety of topics and text (i.e., Realistic, fantasy, etc.)
Either more pages or lines of text
May contain a few unfamiliar words

Sammy's Moving by Kathleen Urmston

DRA Level 10

These books consist of:

Three to eight lines of text per page
Sentence patterns may not be repeated
Story has a beginning, middle and end
Some picture support
Text begins to resemble a true story lines
Story contains more actions and events
Ten to thirty pages in length
Book Levels 12, 14

DRA Level 12

These books consist of:

Four to eight lines of text per page, longer sentences
Episodes may repeat to support story predictions
Some picture support
Reading vocabulary continues to expand
Stories begin to relate to children's experiences

Wet Grass by June Melser

DRA Level 14

These books consist of:

Sentence patterns are no longer apparent
Some picture support
Stories are longer and more complex or short with difficult content
Stories begin to be categorized as realistic fiction, fantasy, folktales and informational books
New sentences begin on the left margin
DRA Level 16

These books consist of:
- Pictures provide low level of support
- Some books are longer with more sentences per page (30-40 pages)
- Most stories are fictional, non-fiction stories are short with more difficult content
- New sentences begin on the left margin or are otherwise indicated by a large space after punctuation

DRA Level 18

Generally marks the beginning of 2nd grade
- Some books are beginning chapter books (30-60 pages)
- May use shorter sentences and familiar vocabulary so readers can read more rapidly
- Book series are common at this level
Caps for Sale
by Esphyr Slobodkina

DRA Level 20

May contain long stretches of text
Easy chapter like books - usually have pictures on every page or every other page
Shorter texts have difficult vocabulary, challenging content, or complex themes
Books are 15-75 pages long
Illustrations are often black and white and children do not need them to read text with high accuracy
When at last she felt perfectly satisfied with them, she said two more: "Come along, children. Follow me!"
Before they could march, though Jack, Quick, Speedy, and Quack all fell into line, just as they had here before. She led the way into the water and they swam behind her to the opposite bank.

Make Way for Ducklings by Robert McCloskey

DRA Level 24
Many texts are longer chapter books with a few illustrations
Some longer picture books may be included
Print size is varied and often much smaller
Books range from fiction to biography to fantasy
Conclusion
Animals communicate in many different ways. They communicate to warn each other of danger. They communicate to let each other know where to find food.

They communicate when they are ready to mate, and they communicate to warn predators to stay away.
The ways in which animals communicate help them to stay alive.

Generally Marks the beginning of third grade
Shorter books are more literary or contain new information
Longer chapter books may feature everyday adventures
Chapter books are longer with few pictures (60-100 pages in length with shorter chapters, 5-15 pages)
Informational books are generally shorter (between 15-30 pages)
The may contain text features such as indexes, glossaries, time lines, and historical information
Book Level 30

Chapter books are about 100 pages or more with short chapters (5-15 pages)
More complex and sophisticated themes (immigration, death, and slavery)
Non-fiction titles are usually shorter
Books are beginning to be used to gain experiences that will help the reader understand the world
At the end of the year, many 3rd graders will be able to read this level independently with understanding and fluency.

Longer chapter books with a range of problems
Most books have between 50-200 pages
Some black and white illustrations are included
Vocabulary is sophisticated and varied
Most of us were too scared to move. But Janet started searching the box in the glove compartment. She found Mr. Frizzle’s lesson book. As she began reading from it, a huge planet came into view. “Class, this is Jupiter,” Janet read. “It’s the first of the outer planets, and the largest planet in the solar system.”

A variety of literary and informational texts, including history and biography
Many texts are long, a maximum of 200 pages
Length is not as important in calculating the difficulty of the text—the complexity of the text structure, the sophistication of the theme, and the amount of background experience required to understand the text are factors to consider.