

The "Five Finger" Rule

Have students select books that they want to read either on their own, with a partner, or at home. Model this procedure and then have them use it for a quick check to see if the book is at their *independent* level of reading. Share this card with parents so they can help their child find books at the local library. Always praise your students for using the rule: Say: *I like the way you used the rule to find out that the book was too difficult or okay to read. That really shows that you know about your reading!*

The Five Finger Rule

1. Start to read the book and each time you come to a word you do not know ?, put a finger down into your palm.
2. If all of your fingers go down after reading a page of the book (or about 100 words) then this book is too difficult. **D L** Try another book.
3. If some of your fingers stay up Aafter reading a page of the book (or about 100 words) then this text is okay. **C J** Read it!

Why am I doing this? So I can find books for practicing at my *independent* level of reading and be able:

to remember more words	to read more smoothly
to read faster	to read with expression

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