

The Usborne Reading Programme Framework

	Content	Number of pages	Number of words	Words per page	Sentence length
First Reading Level One	Short single narrative followed by reading and comprehension puzzles	32	up to 150	up to 10 (1–3 lines)	on average 2–8 words
First Reading Level Two	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
First Reading Level Three	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
First Reading Level Four	Single narrative	48	up to 750	up to 40 (3–6 lines)	on average 8–15 words
Young Reading Series One	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
Young Reading Series Two	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
Young Reading Series Three	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

continued below

	Themes	Grammar	Vocabulary
First Reading Level One	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
First Reading Level Two	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
First Reading Level Three	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
First Reading Level Four	As Level Three plus classic fairy tales	Full range of tenses	More exotic elements and controlled use of idiom
Young Reading Series One	Fairy tales, fantasy, fiction, non-fiction ("the story of...")	Past tense narratives; avoid passives, embedded clauses, semicolons and colons.	Wide-ranging everyday vocabulary
Young Reading Series Two	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.
Young Reading Series Three	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.

The elements above are intended as guidelines only, and whilst distinctions between different levels remain clear,

exceptions may sometimes be made to individual specifications in the interests of narrative or style.