The POWER and PURPOSE
of Text Levels
What is the PURPOSE of text levels and a text leveling system?
The grade-level goals on the F&P Text Level Gradient™ are intended to provide general guidelines, which should be adjusted based on school district requirements and professional teacher judgment.
A TEXT GRADIENT IS A TOOL FOR:

• Analyzing texts
• Selecting books for small-group reading instruction
• Recording progress over time
• Designing lessons & planning teaching
• Guiding CHOICE in independent reading
• Determining grade-level expectations.
A TEXT GRADIENT IS NOT:

• A label for students
• A label for books in the classroom library
• A label to communicate to parents
• A comparison point for students
• A grade on a report card
• An incentive for students.
How is a level determined and how is the F&P Text Level Gradient™ different from other leveling systems?
Discussion Topic #2

Ten Text Characteristics

1. Genre/Form
2. Text Structure
3. Content
4. Themes and Ideas
5. Language and Literary Features
6. Sentence Complexity
7. Vocabulary
8. Words
9. Illustrations
10. Book and Print Features

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Discussion Topic #3

Levels are a **POWERFUL** tool in the right context. In what instructional contexts are the use of leveled texts appropriate?
Assessment
Guided Reading

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Discussion Topic #3

Leveled Texts? NO
Discussion Topic #3

Intervention

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How do you recommend the following be organized?

- Bookroom
- Classroom Library
- School or Public Library?
Classroom Library

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Discussion Topic #4

Classroom Library

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Discussion Topic #4

Classroom Library

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Without relying on levels, how do you recommend teachers share student progress with parents/caregivers?
How do educators advocate for the appropriate use of levels in their schools/districts?
Summary

• **LEVEL** is a teacher’s tool

• **TEXTS** must be worthy of student choice

• Text levels are **NOT** a “number,” “score,” or “label”

• All **STUDENTS** deserve a literate life

LEVEL TEXTS NOT STUDENTS