

How to Read the Book Information Chart

A detailed **Book Information Chart** for VersaTiles® Fun with Favorite Children’s Books is provided on pages 12–18. It is intended to help you assign age- and reading-level-appropriate books to your students (or to help your students choose their own reading selections) and to help you integrate VersaTiles into your current curriculum.

The Book Information Chart is divided into categories that will help you make meaningful decisions about topics and themes, genres, authors, and reading levels.

This column gives the book number (Primary 1, 2, or 3) and page number for each activity.

Titles are listed alphabetically.

Find favorite authors and illustrators in this column.

Use the key to find the abbreviations for the awards, such as the Caldecott.

Extend learning with these prompts for journal writing or book discussions. They are a good complement to the Interview and Conferencing Guide (page 38).

Book/ Page	Title	Author (Illustrator)	Awards	RL- GE*	RL- GR ^Δ	Genre	Themes & Topics	Conferencing & Journal Response Ideas
P-1 1	Madeline	written and illustrated by Ludwig Bemelmans	C	3.1	K	Realistic Fiction	Illness Paris	1. Have you ever been really sick? What was it like? 2. Would you like to live with the twelve little girls? Why or why not?
P-2 20	The Magic School Bus Plants Seeds: A Book about How Living Things Grow	adapted by Patricia Relf (John Speirs)		3.1		Informational Nonfiction Fantasy	Environment Plants School	1. Write a paragraph describing what you learned about how flowers grow. 2. Have you ever planted anything? What did you do to take care of the plant?
P-3 18	Miss Nelson Is Missing!	written and illustrated by Harry Allard and James Marshall		2.7	L	Realistic Fiction	Behavior School Mystery	1. How did the class change at the end of the story? Why? 2. Look at the pictures again. What details are funny?

This column gives the approximate reading level by grade and month.

This column gives the recommended Guided Reading Level, when available.

Use these two columns—Genre and Themes & Topics—to help students decide which books to read and to find books that match your curriculum needs.

Book Information Chart for Primary Level

Book/ Page	Title	Author (Illustrator)	Awards	RL- GE*	RL- GR ^A	Genre	Themes & Topics	Conferencing & Journal Response Ideas
P-2 1	Abe Lincoln's Hat	Martha Brenner (Donald Cook)		2.6		Biography	Abraham Lincoln Presidents Slavery	1. What did you learn about Abraham Lincoln? Write a paragraph about him. 2. Many Americans believe that Abraham Lincoln was one of our best presidents. Why do you think they feel this way?
P-1 1	Abuela	Arthur Dorros (Elisa Kleven)	ANB NCSS PC	2.5		Fantasy	Imagination Grandmothers New York City Hispanic Americans	1. If you could fly, where would you go? What would you see? Write about it. 2. Find out about one of your grandmothers or great-grandmothers. What language did she speak?
P-2 2	Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day	Judith Viorst (Ray Cruz)		3.7		Realistic Fiction (Humor)	Feelings Brothers School	1. What advice would you give Alexander? 2. Have you ever felt like Alexander? When?
P-3 1	Amelia Bedelia	Peggy Parish (Fritz Siebel)		2.5	L	Realistic Fiction (Humor)	Cooking Jobs	1. Choose three words that confused Amelia Bedelia. Explain why she was confused. 2. What was your favorite picture? Why?
P-2 3	Amelia Bedelia Helps Out	Peggy Parish (Lynn Sweat)		2.3	L	Realistic Fiction (Humor)	Gardening Jobs	1. Make a list of words that confused Amelia Bedelia. Circle the gardening words. 2. Have you ever worked in a garden? What was it like?
P-2 4-5	Amelia Earhart: Pioneer of the Sky	John Parlin (illustrator varies)		3.0	P	Biography	Achievement Flight Women Heroes	1. Write a paragraph about what you want to do when you grow up. 2. Do you think that Amelia Earhart was a hero? Why?
P-3 2	Amos & Boris	written and illustrated by William Steig	ANB	4.7		Fantasy	Friendship Mice Whales	1. Continue the story. Tell how Amos and Boris might meet again. 2. Which character did you like the best? Why?
P-1 2	Anansi the Spider: A Tale from the Ashanti	written and illustrated by Gerald McDermott	C	2.0		Folktales	Spiders Family Moon African culture	1. Everyone has a special quality. What is yours? Write about it. 2. Write a folktale about an animal you like.
P-3 3	The Babe & I	David A. Adler (Terry Widener)		3.2		Historical Fiction	Great Depression Babe Ruth Baseball Families	1. How do you think the father felt at the beginning of the story? How do you think he felt at the end? 2. Have you ever been to a baseball game? Write about it.
P-2 6	Back Home	Gloria Jean Pinkney (Jerry Pinkney)	ANB NCSS	3.5		Historical Fiction	Relatives Farm life African Americans	1. How is living in the country different from living in a city? How is it the same? 2. Do your relatives live nearby or far away? Write about a time you spent together.

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P-2 7	Beady Bear	written and illustrated by Don Freeman		3.4		Fantasy	Bears Happiness Toys Imagination	1. Did you like the ending? Why or why not? 2. Do you have a favorite toy? Write about it.
P-3 4	Best Friends for Frances	Russell Hoban (Lillian Hoban)		3.4		Fantasy	Friendship Sisters Badgers	1. What is it like having a little sister or a little brother? 2. If you could take a best friend on an outing, where would you go? Tell about your plans.
P-2 8	Blueberries for Sal	written and illustrated by Robert McCloskey	C	4.1	M	Fantasy	Mothers Blueberries Bears	1. Write a new ending for the story. 2. If you lost your mother somewhere, what would you do? Write about it.
P-3 5	The Boy of the Three-Year	Dianne Snyder (Allen Say)	C HB SLJ	3.7		Folktales	Laziness Japanese experience	1. What was the best trick in the story? Explain. 2. Which picture would you put on the front cover? Why?
P-1 3	Bravo, Amelia Bedelia!	Herman Parish (Lynn Sweat)		2.0		Realistic Fiction (Humor)	School Music	1. Make a list of words that confused Amelia Bedelia. Circle the music words. 2. How would you describe Amelia Bedelia to someone? Write about her.
P-2 9	Caps for Sale: A Tale of a Peddler, Some Monkeys, and Their Monkey Business	written and illustrated by Esphyr Slobodkina		3.1	K	Folktales	Mischievousness Monkeys	1. What might happen if the peddler sat under the tree the next day? 2. The title says that this is a story about some monkeys and their monkey business. What does this mean?
P-3 6	Chickens Aren't the Only Ones	written and illustrated by Ruth Heller		3.6		Informational Nonfiction	Life cycles Eggs Animals	1. Write a paragraph telling what you learned from this book. 2. Find the animal names in big type. Make a list of the words. Circle the words that you did not know.
P-2 10	Clifford the Big Red Dog	written and illustrated by Norman Bridwell		1.2	K	Fantasy	Pets Dogs	1. Make a list of words that describe Clifford. 2. What would happen if Clifford went home with you for one day?
P-1	Clifford's Birthday Party	written and illustrated by Norman Bridwell		2.5		Fantasy	Family Friends Birthdays	1. What is the best birthday party you have ever had? What did you do? 2. What was your favorite part of the story? Why?
P-1 5	Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs	Judi Barrett (Ron Barrett)		4.3	M	Fantasy (Humor)	Weather Food	1. What was your favorite picture in the story? Why? 2. Write a weather forecast for Chewandswallow. Use weather words.

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P-3 7	Corduroy	written and illustrated by Don Freeman		3.5	K	Fantasy	Friendship Toys	1. Corduroy had many feelings in this story. Choose one and write about it. 2. Tell about a time that you bought something with your own money.
P-2 11	Curious George	H.A. Rey		2.6		Fantasy	Adventure Monkeys Curiosity	1. Do you think George will stay out of trouble at the zoo? Why or why not? 2. Did you like the pictures? Tell about your favorite picture.
P-1 6	Curious George Takes a Job	H.A. Rey		3.1		Fantasy	Adventure Monkeys	1. What was your favorite part of the story? Why? 2. Would you like to have George as a friend? Explain.
P-1 7	Danny and the Dinosaur	written and illustrated by Syd Hoff		2.3	J	Fantasy	Imagination Dinosaurs	1. What would happen if you met Danny's dinosaur? 2. What is it like to have a best friend? Write about it.
P-2 12	Diego	Jonah Winter (Jeanette Winter)	PC	4.1		Biography	Artists Diego Rivera Mexico Hispanic experience	1. How is your life the same as Diego Rivera's life? How is it different? 2. If you painted a mural, what would you show?
P-2 13	Digging Up Dinosaurs	written and illustrated by Aliki		3.6		Informational Nonfiction	Paleontology Dinosaurs Jobs	1. What did you learn about digging up dinosaurs? 2. Would you like to go on a dig? Why or why not?
P-1 8	Dragon in the Rocks: A Story Based on the Childhood of Early Paleontologist Mary Anning	written and illustrated by Marie Day		3.0		Biographical Fiction	Paleontology Mary Anning Dinosaurs	1. Make a list of words that describe Mary Anning. 2. Write three sentences that tell what you learned about ichthyosaurs.
P-2 14	Egg to Chick	Millicent E. Selsam (Barbara Wolff)		3.0		Informational Nonfiction	Life cycles Chickens	1. What was the most interesting part of this book? Explain. 2. Make a list of science words that were used in the book. Circle the words that were new to you.
P-1 9-10	Frog and Toad Are Friends	written and illustrated by Arnold Lobel	C	2.9	K	Fantasy	Friendship Feelings Frogs, Toads	1. What were some nice things that Frog and Toad did for each other? 2. Which chapter did you like best? Why?
P-2 15	The Gift of the Sacred Dog	written and illustrated by Paul Goble		4.2		Folktales (Legend)	Horses Buffalo Native Americans	1. Why do you think a horse is called a Sacred Dog? 2. Think about the boy who asked the Great Spirit for help. Write a description of what he was like.

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P-1 11	The Good Luck Cat	Joy Harjo (Paul Lee)		1.0		Realistic Fiction	Cats Pets Native Americans	1. What do you think happened to Woogie when she was missing? 2. Do you think this book has a good title? Explain.
P-1 12	Grandfather's Journey	written and illustrated by Allen Say	ANB C, HB IRT NCSS	3.6		Biographical Fiction	Travel Grandfathers Feelings Asian Americans	1. Write about a place where you would like to go on vacation. Tell why. 2. Talk about a photograph of one of your grandfathers or great-grandfathers.
P-3 8	The Great Kapok Tree: A Tale of the Amazon Rain Forest	written and illustrated by Lynne Cherry	IRT NSTA	3.8		Fantasy Informational Nonfiction	Ecology Rain Forest Jungle animals	1. Write a letter to the man to thank him for saving the tree. Tell him why the tree is important. 2. Have you ever been to a forest? What was it like?
P-3 9	Green Eggs and Ham	written and illustrated by Dr. Seuss		1.5	J	Fantasy	Trying new things Rhyme	1. Write about a food that you were afraid to try. How did it turn out? 2. Which words in the story rhyme? List the pairs of rhyming words. Circle a pair. Write a new verse for the story.
P-3 10	Horrible Harry and the Kickball Wedding	Suzy Kline (Frank Remkiewicz)		2.9	L	Realistic Fiction	Valentine's Day School Sports Weddings	1. Do you think that Harry was horrible in this story? Explain. 2. Write about funny things that might happen to Sidney and his friends at his mother's wedding.
P-3 11	I Hate English!	Ellen Levine (Steve Björkman)	ANB	3.0		Realistic Fiction	Immigration School Chinese Americans	1. How did the pictures help you understand Mei Mei? Explain. 2. Do you think this is a good book? Why or why not?
P-2 16	If a Bus Could Talk: The Story of Rosa Parks	written and illustrated by Faith Ringgold		3.0		Biography	Civil rights Rosa Parks African Americans	1. If you could meet Rosa Parks, what would you ask her? Explain. 2. How did Rosa Parks make life better for other people?
P-2 17	If You Give a Mouse a Cookie	Laura Joffe Numeroff (Felicia Bond)		2.7	K	Fantasy (Humor)	Sharing Mice Cause and effect	1. Does the mouse remind you of anyone you know? Explain. 2. What might happen if the boy gives the mouse another cookie? Write a story.
P-2 18	Ira Sleeps Over	written and illustrated by Bernard Waber		2.2		Realistic Fiction	Feelings Sleepiness Toys	1. Have you ever felt worried like Ira did? Write about it. 2. Do you have a favorite toy or teddy bear? Describe it.

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P-1 13	Jojo's Flying Side Kick	written and illustrated by Brian Pinkney		3.2		Realistic Fiction	Achievement Sports Problem solving Feelings African Americans	1. Write about a time when you were brave. 2. What did you learn about tae kwan do? Would you like to take lessons?
P-2 19	Joseph Had a Little Overcoat	written and illustrated by Simms Taback	ANB C	2.0		Folktales	Being resourceful Community	1. What would you make from the overcoat? Write about your idea. 2. Tell what you think will happen when Joseph's book wears out.
P-3 12-14	Junie B. Jones and a Little Monkey Business	Barbara Park (Denise Brunkus)		2.9		Realistic Fiction	Jealousy Brothers and sisters School	1. What was your favorite part of the story? Explain. 2. Look at the chapter called "Some School Words." Make a list of the school words. Add 10 school words to the list.
P-1 14	The Keeping Quilt	written and illustrated by Patricia Polacco		4.4		Biographical Fiction	Tradition Grandparents Immigration Jewish Americans Quilts	1. Find out if there is a special object in your family, such as a quilt. Write about it. 2. Do your parents tell you stories about your grandparents or great-grandparents? Write down one of those stories.
P-3 15	Leonardo and the Flying Boy: A Story about Leonardo da Vinci	written and illustrated by Laurence Anholt		4.0		Biographical Fiction	Inventions Art Leonardo da Vinci	1. What do you think of Leonardo da Vinci? Does he remind you of anyone? 2. Which pictures have interesting details? Explain.
P-1 15	The Lily Cupboard: A Story of the Holocaust	Shulamith Levey Oppenheim (Ronald Himler)		2.9		Historical Fiction	Holocaust War Jewish experience Survival	1. Write a letter from Miriam to her parents. Have Miriam describe her new life. 2. The book title says this is a story about the Holocaust. What did you learn about World War II and the Holocaust?
P-3 16	Little Bear	Eise Holmelund Minarik (Maurice Sendak)	ANB	2.4	J	Fantasy	Bears Mothers Birthdays	1. What was Little Bear like? Would you like to have Little Bear as a friend? 2. Write about your favorite birthday party. Tell why it was your favorite.
P-3 17	A Little Prairie House: My First Little House Books	Laura Ingalls Wilder (Renee Graef)		3.0		Historical Fiction	Westward Movement Laura Ingalls Wilder Great Plains	1. How was Laura's life different from yours? Explain. 2. What words did the author use to describe the setting? Make a list of those words. Circle the words that were new to you.
P-1 16	Lon Po Po: A Red-Riding Hood Story from China	translated and illustrated by Ed Young	ANB C, HB SLJ	3.5		Folktales(Fairy Tale)	Courage Wolves Chinese experience	1. What do you like about the pictures in this story? 2. How was this story like "Little Red-Riding Hood"?

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P-2 20	The Magic School Bus Plants Seeds: A Book about How Living Things Grow	adapted by Patricia Relf (John Speirs)		3.1		Informational Nonfiction Fantasy	Environment Plants School	1. Write a paragraph describing what you learned about how flowers grow. 2. Have you ever planted anything? What did you do to take care of the plant?
P-3 18	Miss Nelson Is Missing!	written and illustrated by Harry Allard and James Marshall		2.7	L	Realistic Fiction	Behavior School Mystery	1. How did the class change at the end of the story? Why? 2. Look at the pictures again. What details are funny?
P-2 21	Miss Rumphius	written and illustrated by Barbara Cooney	ABA IRC NCSS	3.8		Realistic Fiction	Aunts Flowers Good deeds	1. Tell about a time that you did something to make the world more beautiful. 2. What is your favorite flower? Write about it.
P-1 18	Nate the Great	Marjorie Weinman Sharmat (Marc Simont)		2.0	K	Mystery	Detectives Solving a mystery	1. Did you think Nate the Great was great? Why or why not? 2. Have you ever lost something? How did you find it?
P-2 22	Nate the Great Goes Undercover	Marjorie Weinman Sharmat (Marc Simont)		2.4	K	Mystery	Detectives Solving a mystery	1. Were you surprised by the ending? Why or why not? 2. If someone kept taking pencils out of your desk, what would you do to find the thief?
P-3 19	Pablo's Tree	Pat Mora (Cecily Lang)		2.0		Realistic Fiction	Birthdays Adoption Hispanic Americans	1. Write about a birthday tradition or another tradition in your family. 2. How would you decorate Pablo's tree on his sixth birthday? Tell about your idea.
P-2 23	The Paperboy	written and illustrated by Dav Pilkey	ANB C	2.9		Realistic Fiction	Jobs Morning African Americans	1. What part of the day do you like the best? Why? 2. What would it be like to deliver newspapers in your neighborhood?
P-3 20	Salt in His Shoes: Michael Jordan in Pursuit of a Dream	Deloris Jordan with Roslyn M. Jordan (Kadir Nelson)		4.0		Biographical Fiction	Basketball Michael Jordan African Americans	1. What did you learn about Michael Jordan? Write a paragraph about him. 2. Which pictures had interesting details? Explain.
P-1 19	Sarah Morton's Day: A Day in the Life of a Pilgrim Girl	Kate Waters (Russ Kendall, photographer)	IRT NCSS	3.4		Informational Nonfiction	Pilgrims Early American life	1. How was Sarah's life different from your life? Explain. 2. What did you already know about the Pilgrims? What else did you learn?

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P-1 20	The Snowy Day	written and illustrated by Ezra Jack Keats	C	2.5	J	Realistic Fiction	Imagination Snow Winter African Americans	1. What is winter like where you live? 2. Which picture did you like best? Tell what you liked about the picture.
P-1 21	Strega Nona	written and illustrated by Tomie dePaola	ANB C, HB	3.9		Folktales	Good behavior Food	1. What advice would you give to Big Anthony? 2. What part of the story did you like best?
P-3 21	Tallchief: America's Prima Ballerina	Maria Tallchief with Rosemary Wells (Gary Kelley)		3.0		Biography	Ballet Maria Tallchief Native Americans	1. Write about what you would like to be when you grow up. 2. List the facts you learned about Maria Tallchief. Circle the most interesting facts.
P-3 22	Tar Beach	written and illustrated by Faith Ringgold	C CSK PC SLJ	3.4		Fantasy	Dreams New York City African Americans Native Americans	1. Tell about dreams that you have for your future. 2. What is your favorite thing to do on a hot summer night?
P-1 22	Tomás and the Library Lady	Pat Mora (Raul Colón)	IRT	2.7		Biographical Fiction	Migrant labor Imagination Books Mexican Americans	1. What was the most interesting thing that you learned about Tomás? 2. Do you like going to the library? What is your library like?
P-1 23-24	The Truth about Bats: A Magic School Bus Science Chapter Book	Eva Moore (Ted Enik)		3.0		Informational Nonfiction Fantasy	Zoology Bats School	1. Choose one of the bats you read about in this book. Find out more about the bat. Draw a picture of it. Write 5 facts about it. 2. Write about how you would feel if you went on the bat field trip.
P-3 23	Tyrannosaurus Was a Beast: Dinosaur Poems	Jack Prelutsky (Arnold Lobel)		3.0		Poetry	Dinosaurs Humor	1. Which poem did you like best? Why? 2. Look at the picture of Tyrannosaurus. Write another verse for the poem.
P-3 24	Where the Wild Things Are	written and illustrated by Maurice Sendak	C	3.4	J	Fantasy	Imagination Monsters Families	1. What might happen if Max sailed back to where the wild things are? Explain. 2. Which picture did you like the best? Why?
P-2 24	Yeh-Shen: A Cinderella Story from China	Retold by Ai-Ling Louie (Ed Young)	HB SLJ	5.1		Folktales (Fairy Tale)	Jealousy Chinese experience Families	1. How was this story like "Cinderella"? 2. Find a picture that has a fish hidden in it. Why did the illustrator do this?

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