Free
Literacy Level Locator
(Test of Reading Levels K-16)

Self-Administer
Less than five minutes to administer
High Reliability
Sound Validity
Automatically and Immediately Scored

You can now test your children's grade level reading ability any time you want to see how they are progressing in reading. You can find out if your youngsters are reading at an instructions or mastery level. You can keep a record of their raw score to obtain a precise literacy progress. And it's free!

Format: The test is individually administered by computer. The test opens with a sample item and testing is started at item one. It continues until a ceiling point is reached at two consecutive levels. When the ceiling is reached the program scores the test. It records the raw score, the independent reading levels, the instructional reading level(s), the ceiling level, and the testing time. The independent (basal) level is marked at the highest level at which the student gets at least four out of the five items correct. The instructional levels continue with at least 3 out of 5 correct. Mastering the first three levels means that the youngster is reading at a first grade level. Mastering the next two levels means the student is reading at a second grade level. After that each level represents a grade and the grades go beyond the 12th grade. Materials developed by Dr. Charles Hargis and colleagues, Professor Emeritus from the University of Tennessee.

Directions
Here's what to do to open the Literacy Level Locator:
Go to Skills to Critical Thinking
Use Windows 10 and Microsoft Edge to open Literacy Level Locator.
Open Literacy Level Locator
Select http://skillstocriticalthinking.com/L3.swf
Select the logo that pops up
(While the logo is still visible, find “Open Once” usually at the top of the page.)
Select “Open Once”
Technical Information

**Test Structure:** Picturable words were selected for each reading level. The words were graded by familiarity scores and frequency of use. Each test item includes the stimulus word accompanied by four illustrations, one depicting the meaning of the stimulus word. For example, the item testing the word “knife” is followed by a picture of a knight, a kite, night, and a knife. The test taker reads the word silently and then clicks on the illustration that depicts it. Word recognition and comprehension skills are required to select the correct illustration. There are five test items at each reading level from preprimer through grade 18. There are three levels within first grade and two in second grade. The rest of the grades have one level including college levels. There are a total of 105 items.

**Response Mode:** The student mouse clicks on the illustration that depicts the stimulus word.

**Special Features:** The L3 takes less time by half than the STAR, about five minutes versus about 13 minutes. The L3 has an essentially unlimited ceiling. It tests through grade 18 (level 21). At the eighth grade level significant numbers of students are reading above grade level twelve, and at the ninth through the twelfth grades, more than a quarter of all students exceed the twelfth grade ceiling. Progress with these students can’t be checked without a much higher ceiling. Twenty-three percent of the ninth graders tested reached the ceiling score of 12.9 on the STAR. Teachers need to know which students do exceed it and by how much. Grade level work may be inappropriate - even boring.

**The L3 yields raw scores.** We have found the need to check progress in the more sensitive increments that raw scores can provide. This is important for the lowest and slowest achieving students.