What is a Reading Ladder?

DTDL’s Reading Ladders are booklists with readalikes for popular books and series. The booklists are presented in order of reading level difficulty. As you move from level 1 to 8, the books generally get more challenging. (Please note that many series start at one reading level and get more difficult as the series goes on.)

If your child loves the Dog Man series, you can find readalike books at a similar reading level on the same step in the ladder as Dog Man.

If your child is not quite ready yet for Dog Man, they can start at the bottom of the ladder and work their way up to Dog Man.

If your child is ready to move on from Dog Man, they can start on the ladder step above Dog Man for more challenging books.

Please keep in mind, kids have a lot to gain by reading books below or above their reading level! Reading below level can help kids gain valuable reading skills, such as increasing their fluency, comprehension, and confidence. Reading above level can be assisted with interaction and support from an adult.

Print motivation, or a child’s interest in books and reading, is a key literacy skill for your child to become a lifelong reader. No matter the reading level, support your child in reading (and listening to) things that they enjoy.

Dog Man series
Author: Dav Pilkey
#1: Dog Man
Superhero Harry
Author: Rachel Ruiz
Lucy and Andy Neanderthal series
Author: Jeffrey Brown
#1: Lucy and Andy Neanderthal
Glitch
Author: Sarah Graley
InvestiGators series
Author: John Patrick Green
#1: InvestiGators

Caveboy Dave series
Author: Aaron Reynolds
#1: More Brawny Than Scrawny
Drew and Jot: Dueling Doodles
Author: Art Baltazar
Rutabaga the Adventure Chef series
Author: Eric Colossal
#1: Rutabaga the Adventure Chef

Babymouse series
Author: Jennifer L. Holm
#1: Queen of the World
The Lunch Lady series
Author: Jarrett Krosoczka
#1: Lunch Lady and the Cyborg Substitute
HIlo series
Author: Judd Winnick
#1: The Boy Who Crashed to Earth
The Bad Guys series
Author: Aaron Blabey
#1: The Bad Guys

Fly Guy series
Author: Tedd Arnold
#1: Hi, Fly Guy!
Ready to Read! PJ Masks series
Author: Daphne Pendergrass
#1: Time to Be A Hero
Johnny Boo series
Author: James Kochalka
#1: The Best Little Ghost in the World
Passport to Reading: Teen Titans Go! Series
Author: Jennifer Fox, et. al.
#1: Brain Food

Humor, adventures, superheroes, and animal characters