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 Harry Potter series, you can find readalike books at a similar reading level on the same step in the ladder as Harry Potter.

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

If your child is ready to move on from Harry Potter, they can start on the ladder step above Harry Potter 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.

Magic, fantasy, adventure, and mystical creatures