



# The 3 Level Guide Reading Programme

The 3 Level Guide is a reading strategy that develops the students awareness and appreciation of texts they read e.g. books, poems, articles. If students take greater control of their reading they are more likely to engage in reading and learning.

As a strategy, the 3 Level Guide helps students unlock and uncover layers of meaning in text. The strategy is based around a set of questions that students ask themselves. This helps them to first comprehend the text, then form deeper understandings by making inferences and connections between the text and their own experiences. This makes the reading experience more meaningful and relevant.

The strategy is also designed to help students to develop their own 'thinking voice' by allowing and encouraging them to express their ideas and understandings in response to text.



Dear Parents

We know that many things we read can and should be read at different levels. It is through our understanding of the different levels that we truly appreciate the value of the text.

A big part of your child's reading programme is learning to use a reading strategy called the 3 Level Guide. At Birkdale Intermediate, we have developed our own version of this strategy. The strategy is about empowering our students to comprehend text at literal and inferential levels.

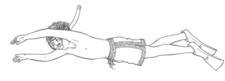


Ways in which you could support your child during their reading and use of the 3 Level Guide:

- Ask them about the strategy and how it is helping them understand the texts they are reading.
- Ask them questions about what they are reading (use the attached version of the 3 Level Guide to help).
- Make a visit to the local library for books.
- Share with them your own thoughts, feelings, and understandings about texts they are reading.
- Talk about the books, newspaper and magazine articles you are reading. Discuss the movies you have seen. Connect these with your experiences, and other books you have read or movies you have seen.
- Use the guide when discussing texts with your child.



Kamila and Erlis, about to start an issues' analysis of a poem as part of the 3 Level Guide reading programme.

## The Three Level Guide (3LG) Searching for hidden treasure in text

Level 1	
<p><b>What is Level 1?</b></p> <p>It is the words that the author has written (the words on the page).</p> <p><b>Why do we need to know Level 1?</b></p> <p>To make sure we know the words in front of us.</p> <p>To pick out the important parts.</p>	<p><b>Understanding:</b> Every word/phrase/sentence on the page.</p> <p><b>Summarising:</b> Can I find the important parts of the text using Who, What, Where, When, Why, and How? (5WH)</p> <p><b>Ordering:</b> Can I order the main events in the text?</p> <p><b>Reading is like looking for sunken treasure. At Level 1 you are on the surface of the sea (surface reading).</b></p> 
Level 2	
<p><b>What is Level 2?</b></p> <p>It is reaching a deeper understanding and being able to read between the lines.</p> <p><b>Why do we need to know Level 2?</b></p> <p>To understand the text more fully.</p> <p>To develop your own 'thinking' voice (connect with the text in your own way)</p>	<p><b>Feelings:</b> What do I think the characters in the text might be feeling? How do I feel?</p> <p><b>Thoughts:</b> What could the characters have been thinking? What does this text make me think about?</p> <p><b>Messages:</b> What message do I think the author is trying to give me?</p> <p><b>Issues:</b> What issues are involved?</p> <p><b>Purpose:</b> Why did the author write this? Who is the target audience?</p> <p><b>Ideas:</b> What ideas has this given me?</p> <p><b>Visual and Language Features</b> - which ones can I find in the text? <i>Can I explain and justify the above by quoting from the text?</i></p> <p><b>In order to reach the sunken treasure you need to 'dive' into the text (sea) and go deeper.</b></p> 
Level 3	
<p><b>What is Level 3?</b></p> <p>It is connecting the text to our experiences, other texts and the world.</p> <p><b>Why do we need to know Level 3?</b></p> <p>Because connections help to make the text more meaningful and relevant.</p>	<p><b>Personal Experiences:</b> What does this remind me of in my own life?</p> <p><b>The World:</b> How can I link the text to what is happening in the world?</p> <p><b>Other texts:</b> How can I link the text to other movies, books, magazines etc.</p> <p><b>The treasures are the rich ideas and understandings that you get from the text.</b></p> 

For the very capable readers, extra elements are taught and discussed at Level 2. These include: settings analysis, themes, bias, symbolism and assumptions.

Yours sincerely

Richard Coote  
Principal