How to Choose a "Just Right" Book for Independent Reading

- First, preview the book and ask yourself:

 1. Does the book cover look interesting?
 - Read the description on the back cover. Are you interested?



- If yes, now use the <u>Five Finger Test:</u>

 1. Open the book to a random page in the middle.

 - Hold up Five fingers on one hand.
 Begin reading at the top of the page.
 Put down a finger each time you stumble over a word or come to a word
 - you don't know.

 If you can get to the bottom of the page & still have at least one finger up, this book has passed 5. the Five Finger Test!

Easy

- You can read the words fluently (smooth & with an interesting voice)
- You know how to pronounce all the words You have a lot of prior knowledge for the topic
- You totally understand what is going on in the story
 You can easily make pictures in your head
- Your thinking comes easy as you read the words

Challenging

- Many of the words are too hard to decode (failed the Five Finger Test)
 You don't know what the TRICKY words mean
 Your reading becomes choppy
 You lose focus as you are reading

- You are confused
- You can't make pictures in your head
 You are not enjoying the book because you have to do too much word work
 Your reading rate slows way down

Just Right

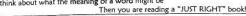
- You can understand what you are reading
- You can the book
 You can read the book with smooth fluency, but there are some choppy places
 You can figure out the TRICKY words & still get the meaning of the story
 Your reading rate is just right—not too slow & not too fast

- You can mostly make pictures in your head

Last, if you are reading the text and you...

- Understand & enjoy the topic
 Can tell a friend what's happening from each chapter
 Can read the sentences aloud smoothly & fluently (as fast as you
- speak in conversation)

 Find just a few places (less that 4 words per page) where you have to think about what the meaning of a word might be







Reading a "Just Right" book helps you become a better reader!