

# The Five-Finger Rule

## A "Handy"-Dandy Strategy For Selecting Books For Independent Reading



1. Choose a book that is interesting to you. Take a minute to browse through it to make sure you would want to read it.
2. Choose a page that has a lot of words and begin to read.
3. Hold up one finger for each word you do not know and cannot figure out.

### **No Fingers Up = Easy Book**

If you finish the page and aren't holding up any fingers, it might be a good "easy" book. Some teachers call these books "vacation" books, because they are fun and easy to read.

### **1-4 Fingers Up = Just Right Book**

If you are holding up 1-4 fingers, the book may be "just right." This means that you should understand the words and ideas most of the time. You will need to practice your reading strategies on a harder part every once in a while.

### **5+ Fingers Up = Challenge Book**

If you are holding up more than 5 fingers on one page, the book may be a "challenge" or "dream" book. This means that you might not be ready to read it by yourself. If you are very interested in it, it may be a good book for you to read with an adult or a friend.



Visit [www.ReadStrong.org](http://www.ReadStrong.org) for more ideas and suggestions about helping children become successful readers.