

How do I choose the right level of EWS for my child?

Exploring the World through Story is a world literature program for students ages 4-14, corresponding to US grades K-8. The curriculum was designed to help students build their reading, writing, and analytical skills incrementally and sequentially, moving from oral narration in the primary years to essays in middle school.

Each of the primary levels, for grades K-2, includes a review of the narration skills and memory work taught in the previous levels, so students can jump in at the level corresponding to their grade or age. You may want to use the books from the previous levels as family read-alouds to build students' background knowledge.

Beyond the primary levels, students should be placed in the level that corresponds to the writing focus they need. Students aged 8+ who have not had any practice in [oral narration](#) should begin with Level C. Older beginners can work through lower levels at an accelerated pace until they reach grade level.

I recommend that newcomers to EWS read any unfamiliar stories from the previous levels to assure that they have the necessary background knowledge for higher levels of the program. For example, students beginning Level E should be familiar with stories taught in Level D, and all students aged 8+ should know the stories from Level C.

To learn more about sequential and explicit writing instruction, see my article "[Writing Instruction, Step by Step](#)" or Joan Sedita's [The Writing Rope](#).

US Grade	Age Range	EWS Level	Topics/Writing Focus
K	4-6	A	Folktales: Fables & Pourquoi Tales Writing Focus: Oral responses to comprehension questions
1	5-7	B	Folktales: Trickster Tales Writing Focus: Oral narrations with and without prompts
2	6-8	C	Folktales: Wonder Tales Writing Focus: Transition from oral narrations to brief written narrative summaries
3	7-9	D	Wisdom Tales:

			Hindu/Egyptian/Jewish Writing Focus: Sentence variation
4	8-10	E	Wisdom Tales: Buddhist/Greek/Christian Writing Focus: Paragraph formation (topic sentence, body/supporting sentences, concluding sentence)
5	9-11	F	Wisdom Tales: Islamic/Norse/Chinese Writing Focus: Paragraph expansion (examples, explanations, elaboration, evidence)
6	10-12	G	World Classics: Heroic Tales Writing Focus: Three-paragraph essay (intro/body/conclusion)
7	11-13	H	World Classics: Classical Epics Writing Focus: Four-paragraph essay (compare-contrast)
8	12-14	I	World Classics: Heroic Outlaws/Tragic Lovers/Picaresque & Satire Writing Focus: Five-paragraph essay (thesis statements)