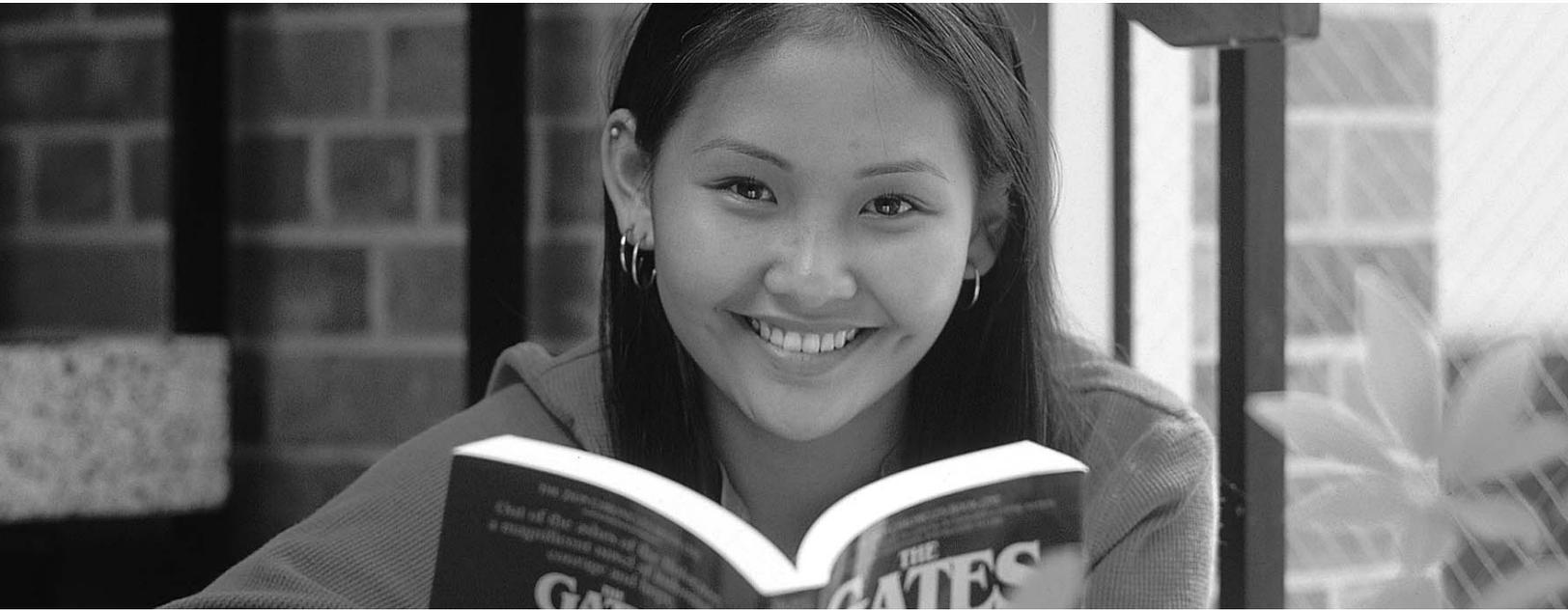# A Parent's Guide to Kansas Book Connect

Name _____

Grade Reading Range (Book Levels)_____

Interest Level
_____ Lower Grades (LG)—K–3
_____ Middle Grades (MG)—4–8
_____ Upper Grades (UG)—9–12

Dear Parent or Guardian,
One of the best gifts you can give your children is your time, and one of the ways in which you can do so is to engage in family reading activities that help them become readers for life. By reading with your children, you help them develop a love of stories, books, poems, and much more. Books open the door to a wide range of exciting possibilities for children to explore; and reading daily with your children results in benefits that last a lifetime.

The Kansas State Department of Education has partnered with Renaissance Learning™ to assist you in selecting interesting and appropriate books for your children. Just visit **www.kansas.bookconnect.com** to access Kansas Book Connect. With a few clicks of a mouse, you can search for titles that your children will find suitable for their abilities. Happy Reading!

Dr. Alexa Posny
Kansas Commissioner of Education

Find Books and Create Book Lists in Seconds!

Quick Search

The Quick Search tab in Kansas Book Connect is similar to a Google™ search because you type keywords into a blank field.

To find a book:

1. Go to **www.kansas.bookconnect.com**.

2. From the **Quick Search** tab on the top of the page, type a book title, author, or topic into the blank field and then click **Go**.

3. To narrow the results, select any of the options on the left of the screen under **Refine Your Search**. You can continue to refine your search until you get your desired results.

4. If you want to create a book list from the titles you are searching, click **Add to Book Bag** button below the cover of any book you want to add to your list.

Book Bag

The Book Bag is a place to create your own book list. This list can be printed and taken to the library or bookstore. It cannot be saved in Kansas Book Connect. However, you can save the "report" (a PDF) to your computer's hard drive.
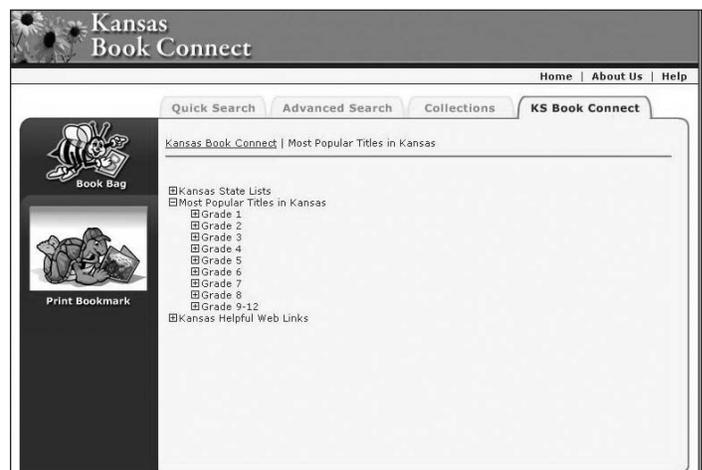
Kansas Book Connect Help

Located in the upper right hand corner is the **Help** button. Click on it for helpful information such as how to use specific features of Kansas Book Connect.

KS Book Connect Tab

This tab provides information that is specific to Kansas such as Kansas State Book Lists, Most Popular Titles in Kansas, and links to helpful websites.
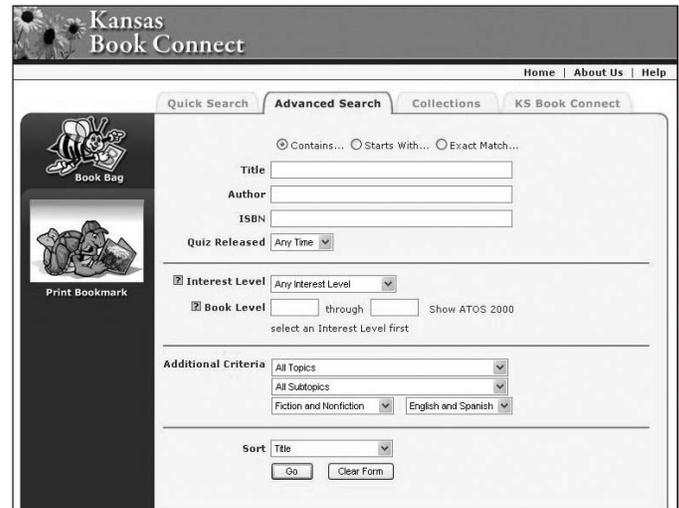
Refine Your Search to Zero-In on Specific Books

Advanced Search

The Advanced Search tab allows you to enter more search criteria such as Book Level, Interest Level, Topics/Subtopics, Fiction/Nonfiction, and Language to get more specific results.

1. Click the **Advanced Search** tab on the top of the page.

2. Select **Contains, Starts With,** or **Exact Match** to determine the parameters of your search.

3. Select your search criteria and click **Go**.

   a. It is recommended that you enter an Interest Level and Book Level to be sure that the results are appropriate for your child. When entering a Book Level, you are required to enter an Interest Level. (Click on the question mark icon for more information on Interest Levels and Book Levels.)

   b. It may be helpful to choose topic and subtopic to see a list of book categories if you are uncertain what books may interest your child.

4. To narrow the results, select any of the options on the left of the screen under **Refine Your Search**. You can continue to refine your search until you get your desired results.

5. You can add any of these books to your **Book Bag**.

Collections

You can view three different types of book collections: Awards, State Lists, and Librarians' Picks. You can add books from any of these lists to your Book Bag.

1. Click the **Collections** tab on the top of the page.

2. Select one of the three collections and continue to click on your choices until you locate the desired book list.

   Awards
   ALA Notable / Best Books
   Caldecott Honor
   Caldecott Medal
   Coretta Scott King Award / Honors
   Newbery Honor
   Newbery Medal

   State Lists
   View and compare required / recommended reading from different states.

   Librarians' Picks
   Book lists for all Interest Levels containing librarians' recommendations for books published during specific years.

If you have questions about Kansas Book Connect or how to best help support your child's reading practice, please contact your child's teacher or librarian.

What is Kansas All Books Connect?

Kansas All Books Connect (Kansas ABC) is a reading initiative consisting of tools and services that help educators and parents match books to kids to promote successful reading practice. Kansas ABC takes a student's score on the Kansas State Reading Assessment and provides a customized grade equivalent reading range. This reading range, called Grade Reading Range, is based on your child's reading skills—a range that is neither too easy to lead to boredom nor too difficult to cause frustration. You can then use this range to search for appropriate books for your child on Kansas Book Connect, www.kansas.bookconnect.com.

What is a Book Level?

Book levels are determined using the ATOS Readability Formula and represent the difficulty of the text. For example a book level of 4.5 means the text could likely be read independently by a student whose reading skills are at the level of a typical fourth grader in the fifth month of school. The content of the book, however, may or may not be appropriate. The Interest Level will give you a recommendation on the appropriateness of the content.

What is the Interest Level?

To help you choose the books most appropriate for your child, each book on Kansas Book Connect is assigned an Interest Level: Lower Grades (LG—K-3), Middle Grades (MG—4-8), and Upper Grades (UG—9-12). The Interest Levels are based on the recommendations of the publisher and/or literary book reviews by professional organizations. However, the final decision on whether the content of a book is appropriate for a particular child is left to parents, librarians, and teachers.
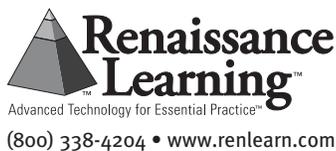
What is Accelerated Reader?

Many Kansas schools use Accelerated Reader (AR), a computer program that helps teachers manage and monitor children's independent reading practice. When using AR, a child picks a book at his/her own level and reads it at his/her own pace. When finished, the child takes a short quiz on the computer. Passing the quiz is an indication that the child understood what was read. AR gives both children and teachers feedback based on the quiz results, which the teacher then uses to help the child set goals and direct ongoing reading practice.

Children using AR choose their own books to read rather than having one assigned to them. This makes reading a much more enjoyable experience as they can choose books that are appealing to them. Teachers and librarians help children choose books at an appropriate reading level and interest level that are challenging without being frustrating, ensuring that children can pass the quiz and experience success.

How does Kansas Book Connect work with Accelerated Reader?

Kansas Book Connect provides useful book information for both schools using AR and those that do not. If your child's school uses AR, you will find that any book listed in Kansas Book Connect has an available AR quiz that your school may or may not have purchased. When viewing Search Results, you will notice the AR point value for the book and the types of quizzes that are available for each book (English/Spanish Reading Practice, English/Spanish Recorded Voice, Vocabulary Practice, or Literacy Skills) are listed.

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