

Frank Newman
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Whangarei

15 May, 2001

Dear Frank,

Thank you for the opportunity to assess the readability and target audience interest of your three new works

1. *Norman Finds his Wings*
2. *Where's My Red Sock*
3. *Grump Grump & the Splendidous Tree.*

As specialists in reading, it is commonplace for our team of writers and editors to evaluate such material before publication is finalised.

We have used the (Elley) Noun Frequency Method (revised edition), the Fry Readability Formula (modified) and a qualitative assessment of syntax and concept complexity as tools for this task.

We have asked several children of varying ages (8 – 12 years), gender and ability levels to comment on the work.

As the works have not had a final edit, we have not taken minor errors into account.

1. *Norman Finds his Wings*

Noun Frequency:

<i>sample one</i>	3.04	equivalent to 7.5 – 8.5 years reading age
<i>sample two</i>	3.16	equivalent to 7.5 – 8.5 years reading age

Fry Formula:

<i>sample one</i>	level 9	equivalent to 12 year reading age
<i>sample two</i>	level 7	equivalent to 10 year reading age

Although the Fry assessment suggests an equivalent reading age considerably higher than the Noun Frequency count, an evaluation of the complexity of the structure (syntax) and the use of repetition suggests an 8 – 10 year readability range.

To enjoy *Norman Finds his Wings* it would not be necessary for a young reader/listener to understand all the social and political undertones. The basic concepts conveyed would be easy to grasp for a reasonably competent reader/listener, as young as 7 years old.

Children interviewed after sharing this work expressed their satisfaction with the story. They liked the drawings, enjoyed the humour and felt other children would enjoy the story too.

2. *Where's My Red Sock*

Noun Frequency:

<i>sample one</i>	2.88	equivalent to 7.5 – 8.5 years reading age
<i>sample two</i>	5.84	equivalent to 12 – 14 years reading age
<i>sample three</i>	5.61	equivalent to 12 – 14 years reading age

Fry Formula:

<i>sample one</i>	level 8	equivalent to 11 year reading age
<i>sample two</i>	level 6	equivalent to 9 years reading age

There is a considerable difference between the first sample and samples two & three of the Noun Frequency count. Sample one came from the first part of the story where the language is simpler. Considering the results of the normative assessments and evaluating the complexity of the concepts, structure and use of repetition we suggest it is in the 11 – 13 year readability range.

The humour was appreciated by adults and a number of the literate older readers (11+) who were given this story. However, younger readers who had higher reading skills found some of the concepts and some of the humour difficult to appreciate.

3. *Grump Grump & the Splendidous Tree*

Noun Frequency:

<i>sample one</i>	4.4	equivalent to 9.5 – 10.5 years reading age
<i>sample two</i>	3.56	equivalent to 8.5 – 9.5 years reading age
<i>sample three</i>	2.88	equivalent to 7.5 – 8.5 years reading age

Fry Formula:

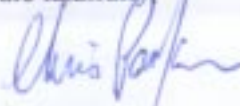
<i>sample one</i>	level 8	equivalent to 11 year reading age
<i>sample two</i>	level 7	equivalent to 10 year reading age

The Fry equivalent reading age is higher than the Noun Frequency count. However, the evaluation of the complexity of the structure (syntax) and the use of repetition suggests an 8 – 10 year readability range.

Once again children interviewed after sharing this work expressed their satisfaction with the story. They liked the drawings, enjoyed the humour and felt other children would enjoy the story too.

I wish you success with these works.

Yours faithfully



Chris Parkin