UNDER THE LEARNING TREE · PARENT GUIDE

Which Level Fits My Child?

Our books are sorted by tree level, not grade, so every child can learn at the pace that fits. Grades and ages below are only a starting point; your child's reading, attention, and interests matter more.

Seedling

About ages 3–5 · Pre-K to K

First colors, shapes, and counting. Big pictures, short pages, lots of talking together. Includes Colors & Shapes and I Can Count.

Sprout

About ages 5–8 · K to 2nd grade

Early readers. Big print, dotted-print tracing, read-aloud help, drawing in place of writing.

Sapling

About ages 8–11 · 3rd to 5th grade

Growing readers who write a few sentences. Dotted-cursive verse, hands-on projects.

Branch

About ages 11–14 · 6th to 8th grade

Independent readers ready for longer lessons, real-world projects, and cursive copywork.

Oak

About ages 14–18 · 9th to 12th grade

Self-directed students. A short How to Use page, answer keys for self-checking, deeper projects.

Some books span two levels. Books marked **Sapling & Branch** work for a wide range; the teacher pages offer simpler and stretch options for younger and older children.

Try a Petal first. Petals are our free short samples. Print one at the level you think fits, and let your child try a few pages:

Level	Free Petal to try
Seedling	Petal: Three Acorns
Sprout	Petal: River Colors · Petal: My First Map
Sapling	Petal: A Cup and a Spoon
Sapling & Branch	Petal: Find North
Oak	Petal: One Choice

> **How to tell it's a good fit:** your child can do most of a page with a little help, stays interested, and feels proud at the end. If it feels too easy, try the next level up. If it brings tears or long stalls, step down a level. There's no rush; growing takes its own time.

Once you've found the level, browse the full **Acorns** books at that level for complete Grow-Along workbooks with Verse Days, lessons, challenges, and answer keys.