Leveling Stories

The Juice uses a proprietary tool that analyzes a given text and reports a "grade score," in part by combining the Flesch-Kincaid readability formula and the Gunning-Fog Index.

The Juice score is largely determined by the length and structure of sentences, the average number of syllables per word in a given sentence, and the number of difficult words that appear in the passage. With that score in hand, our educators apply a less formulaic approach that addresses the following criteria:

Sentence length and structure is the most visible difference from one level to the next. Longer, more complex sentences increase the reading level of a text.

When the **number of words with 3+ syllables** are strung together, it can present a challenge to less fluent readers. We change these words when possible and break up passages with many multisyllable words into smaller chunks.

We can encounter words for which there is not a simpler, close substitute. In such a situation we will provide a definition with our **vocabulary tool** and help students better understand the passage.

When **challenging concepts** are included, we define them, where possible, and to limit the number of challenging concepts presented in any given article.

We use the active voice and avoid starting sentences with phrases like "there are," "it is," etc. While those phrases can drive down the reading level, ir is just poor writing. We pride ourselves on modeling **best writing practices** for students.

Proper nouns can present challenges to our algorithm when they are long or hard to pronounce. We try to minimize using proper nouns when that arises.