

STORYKEEPERS PRESS

READING & PACING READABILITY BRIEF

What the measurements reveal
for classroom and shared-reading planning

THE MINGLES IN WILDERLAND • BOOK ONE: TIMBIT'S EMPIRE

READABILITY BRIEF

Readability Brief

What the Numbers Show

The following readability scores were measured July 11, 2026, on the final ebook text (~121,000 words). All standard instruments were applied.

Measure	Score	Meaning
Flesch Reading Ease	82.0	"Easy" — conversational, spoken-word prose
Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level	4.5	Sentence structure accessible to strong 4th–5th graders
Gunning Fog	6.4	Consistent with easy, uncluttered syntax
SMOG Index	7.9	Mid-range; reflects intentional vocabulary load
Dale-Chall	8.4	High-school-level vocabulary familiarity required
Average sentence length	10.9 words	Short, naturally paced for reading aloud

The Headline Finding

"Fourth-grade sentences. Twelfth-grade words. A book that meets young readers where they are and stretches them where they're going."

The gap between Flesch-Kincaid (4.5 — syntax) and Dale-Chall (8.4 — vocabulary familiarity) is the statistical signature of a vocabulary-building read-aloud. Easy sentence structures carry deliberately rich, unfamiliar words. Readers are never lost — the grammar holds them — but they are always being stretched.

This was the author's stated design intent. The numbers confirm it.

For the Read-Aloud

At a comfortable reading pace of 130–150 words per minute:

- **121,000 words ÷ 140 wpm = ~865 minutes of reading**
- At 20 minutes per session: **~43 sessions**
- At 30 minutes per session: **~29 sessions**
- The book's 85 short chapters make natural stopping points easy to find

One chapter per evening is a realistic pace for most families. The book completes in a school quarter.

How to Use These Scores

For homeschool curriculum planning: The Flesch-Kincaid grade level (4.5) reflects sentence complexity only — not vocabulary, themes, or emotional depth. This is appropriate read-aloud material for ages 8 and up, and independent reading material for strong readers ages 11–14.

For co-op or classroom use: The Dale-Chall score (8.4) means a significant portion of the vocabulary will be unfamiliar to most young readers — by design. The Vocabulary Development Guide (included in this kit) provides pronunciation, definition, and context for every notable word in the book.

For award and library submissions: These scores support placement in the all-ages / family read-aloud category. The book has been deliberately designed to resist age-bracket labeling.