

ON THE GRADE AND READING LEVELS LISTED

The DRP (“DRP”) and Lexile (“LX”) Levels are more accurate because they are based on objective criteria. To use these levels see the description of the DRP and Lexile systems at the back of the catalog. The Grade (“Gr”) and Reading (“RL”) levels are less necessarily accurate. We are not educators. We are bookbinders. We have gathered these levels from various places (publishers’ catalogs, librarian awards lists, educational publication reviews, etc.), all of which have different criteria for their choices. Grades are approximately as follows: P=PreK-2; E=3-5; M=5-8, H=9-12. Those listed as YA are so selected by librarian award lists, but we don’t have specific information to place these titles in specific YA grades. Reading levels are year.month, so that 5.3 means the third month of fifth grade.



This year, more than 14-million students will receive a Lexile measure.

Now, what are you going to do with it?

The Lexile Framework for Reading links reader and written materials through a common metric — the Lexile measure. This lets educators forecast the level of comprehension a student will have with a particular text. And, it lets educators evaluate curriculum needs based on each student's ability to comprehend the materials.

The result is a successful reading experience.

The Lexile measure, developed by MetaMetrics, allows educators to track reading comprehension growth, and to identify materials that can be matched to each student's reading ability. Through partnerships with major publishers, over 44,000 books and 40-million articles have a Lexile measure. The Lexile Framework has been adopted for testing and reading programs by states and school districts around the country, as well as by the U.S. Department of Education's "America Reads" program.

For more information on how to use The Lexile Framework for Reading in your school, call 1.888.LEXILES or visit www.lexile.com.



Reprint of a "Frequently Asked Questions" from Lexile.com

I'm trying to tie in grade level equivalents to Lexile numbers that I find on books. Is there a way to do this?

Because of the many problems associated with grade equivalents, there is not a direct translation from a specific Lexile measure to a specific grade level. Within any classroom there will be a range of readers and a range of materials to be read. In a fifth-grade classroom there will be some readers that are far ahead of the rest (about 250L above the typical reader) and there will be some readers that are far below the rest (about 250L below the typical reader). To say that some books are "just right" for fifth graders assumes that all fifth graders are reading at the same level. What we try to do with the Lexile Framework is to match readers with texts at whatever level the reader is reading.

Just because a student is an excellent reader does not mean that he or she would comprehend a text typically found at a higher grade level. Without the background knowledge the words would not have much meaning. A high Lexile measure for a grade indicates that the student can read grade-level appropriate materials at a higher comprehension level (say 90%).

In the classroom, if a teacher is doing a lesson on the solar system, he or she can suggest additional readings at a variety of levels. Therefore, each child can read additional books, but the lower readers can read an easier book and the better readers can read a harder book.

The Educational Levels displayed on the Lexile Map indicate approximately the middle 50% of materials found in a typical grade-level classroom (see chart below). For example, the instructional materials typically found in a third-grade classroom range from about 500L to 700L. You can go in many third-grade classrooms and find materials that would have measures below 500L or above 700L. We have also conducted numerous studies with large samples of students and have observed approximate reading levels (about the middle 50% of the students-the interquartile range) for each grade level (see chart below). Remember that there are still about 50% of the students that are reading higher or lower than these ranges.

Grade	Reader Measures (Interquartile Range, Mid-Year)	Text Measures (from Lexile Framework Map)
1	up to 300L	200L to 400L
2	140L to 500L	300L to 500L
3	330L to 700L	500L to 700L
4	445L to 810L	650L to 850L
5	565L to 910L	750L to 950L
6	665L to 1000L	850L to 1050L
7	735L to 1065L	950L to 1075L
8	805L to 1100L	1000L to 1100L
9	855L to 1165L	1050L to 1150L
10	905L to 1195L	1100L to 1200L
11 and 12	940L to 1210L	1100L to 1300L

You will notice there is considerable overlap between the grades. This is typical of the reading levels of students in the grades and materials published. In addition, the level of support you provide during reading instruction and the motivation of the reader impact the reading experience. Students who are interested in reading about a specific topic (and therefore motivated) are able to read text that is at a higher level than his or her reading level (about 100L).

The real power of the Lexile Framework is in examining the growth of readers-wherever the reader may be in the development of his or her reading skills. Readers can be matched with texts that they are forecasted to read with 75% comprehension. As a reader grows, he or she can be matched with more demanding texts. And, as the texts become more demanding, then the reader grows

DRP Scale of Readability

What is a DRP value?

Next to many of the book listings in this catalog, you'll notice a number labeled "DRP[®] value." This refers to the book's level of text difficulty, or readability. The higher the number, the more difficult the text.

To arrive at these numbers, our books were analyzed by Touchstone Applied Science Associates (TASA[®]), Inc. using their DRP (Degrees of Reading Power[®]) readability formula. This formula, developed more than 25 years ago, has been used by educators for decades as a reliable measure of text difficulty.

According to the formula, certain measurable features of text contribute significantly to its difficulty, namely:

- word length
- sentence length
- word familiarity

The DRP readability system was designed to be used in conjunction with DRP tests—reading comprehension tests for students in grades 1-12+ published by TASA. These tests measure students' ability to read and comprehend text of varying levels of difficulty. The higher a student's DRP score, the more difficult the text he or she can read and understand.

Teachers have found that having information about how students' reading skills match up with the books used in the curriculum can be an enormous help in planning instruction and in selecting materials for independent reading. When DRP scores for students are not available, teachers can use the median DRP scores achieved by students in each grade as a point of reference.

Obviously, a book's DRP value is not the only factor that should be considered when determining a book's suitability for a particular student or a particular class. Readability formulas do not take into account, for example, a book's content, illustrations, or the concepts embodied

DRP Scale of Readability	
TEXTBOOKS & EXTRACURRICULAR MATERIALS	LITERATURE AND POPULAR TITLES
	76 <i>Wolf Encounters</i>
	75
	74
	73 <i>The Adventures of Don Quixote</i>
	72
	71 <i>Robinson Crusoe</i>
	70 <i>Abraham, Abraham</i>
Front Page of Newspapers*	69 <i>Profiles in Courage</i>
	68 <i>Silent Spring</i>
	67 <i>The Scarlet Letter</i>
	66 <i>Democracy in America</i>
	65 <i>The Prince</i>
Driver's License Manuals*	64 <i>One Hundred Years of Solitude</i>
	63 <i>2001: A Space Odyssey</i>
High School Textbooks*	62 <i>Boats</i>
	61 <i>Jane Eyre</i>
	60 <i>Animal Farm</i>
	59 <i>Across Five Aprils</i>
	58 <i>Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl</i>
Middle School Textbooks*	57 <i>The Hobbit</i>
	56 <i>Catherine, Called Birdy</i>
	55 <i>About Our Teenagers</i>
	54 <i>Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone</i>
	53 <i>Island of the Blue Dolphins</i>
	52 <i>Monter: Myge</i>
Elementary School Textbooks*	51 <i>Old Yeller</i>
	50 <i>Charlotte's Web</i>
	49 <i>How to Eat Fried Worms</i>
	48 <i>Sarah, Plain and Tall</i>
	47 <i>The Magic School Bus Inside the Earth</i>
	46 <i>Math Come</i>
	45 <i>Superfudge</i>
	44 <i>The Bossy Children</i>
	43 <i>Amelia Bedelia</i>
	42 <i>Shoeshine Girl</i>
Primary School Textbooks*	41 <i>Frog and Toad Are Friends</i>
	40 <i>Chicka Chicka Boogie Boogie</i>
	39 <i>The Golly Sisters Go West</i>
	38 <i>Nate the Great</i>
	37 <i>Clifford, the Big Red Dog</i>
	36 <i>Morris the Moose</i>
	35
	34 <i>Are You My Mother?</i>
	33
	32 <i>My Dog's the Best!</i>

in the text. While formulas and numbers will never be substitutes for teacher judgement in these matters, they can nevertheless be useful and reliable resources to assist and inform teacher judgement.

For more information about the Degrees of Reading Power Program, please contact TASA at 1-800-800-2598 or e-mail info@tasa.com.

