

## Measuring Text Complexity: Three Factors



- Qualitative evaluation of the text:** Levels of meaning, structure, language conventionality and clarity, and knowledge demands
- Quantitative evaluation of the text:** Readability measures and other scores of text complexity
- Matching reader to text and task:** Reader variables (such as motivation, knowledge, and experiences) and task variables (such as purpose and the complexity generated by the task assigned and the questions posed)

**Note:** More detailed information on text complexity and how it is measured is contained in Appendix A.

## Range of Text Types for Pre-K–5

Students in Pre-K–5 apply the Reading standards to the following range of text types, with texts selected from a broad range of cultures and periods.

Literature		Informational Text	
Stories	Dramas	Poetry	Literary Nonfiction and Historical, Scientific, and Technical Texts
Includes children’s adventure stories, folktales, legends, fables, fantasy, realistic fiction, and myth	Includes staged dialogue and brief familiar scenes	Includes nursery rhymes and the subgenres of the narrative poem, limerick, and free verse poem	Includes biographies and autobiographies; books about history, social studies, science, and the arts; technical texts, including directions, forms, and information displayed in graphs, charts, or maps; and digital sources on a range of topics

## Range of Text Types for 6–12

Students in grades 6–12 apply the Reading standards to the following range of text types, with texts selected from a broad range of cultures and periods.

Literature		Informational Text	
Stories	Drama	Poetry	Literary Nonfiction
Includes the subgenres of adventure stories, historical fiction, mysteries, myths, science fiction, realistic fiction, allegories, parodies, satire, and graphic novels	Includes one-act and multi-act plays, both in written form and on film	Includes the subgenres of narrative poems, lyrical poems, free verse poems, sonnets, odes, ballads, and epics	Includes the subgenres of exposition, argument, and functional text in the form of personal essays, speeches, opinion pieces, essays about art or literature, biographies, memoirs, journalism, and historical, scientific, technical, or economic accounts (including digital sources) written for a broad audience

## Texts Illustrating the Complexity, Quality, and Range of Student Reading Pre-K–5

\* Read-aloud

\*\* Read-along

	Literature: Stories, Drama, Poetry	Informational Texts: Literary Nonfiction and Historical, Scientific, and Technical Texts
Pre-k-K <sup>1</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Over in the Meadow</i> by John Langstaff (traditional) (c1800)*</li> <li>▪ <i>A Boy, a Dog, and a Frog</i> by Mercer Mayer (1967)</li> <li>▪ <i>A Story, A Story</i> by Gail E. Haley (1970)*</li> <li>▪ <i>Pancakes for Breakfast</i> by Tomie DePaola (1978)</li> <li>▪ <i>Kitten’s First Full Moon</i> by Kevin Henkes (2004)*</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>My Five Senses</i> by Alikei (1962)**</li> <li>▪ <i>Truck</i> by Donald Crews (1980)</li> <li>▪ <i>I Read Signs</i> by Tana Hoban (1987)</li> <li>▪ <i>What Do You Do With a Tail Like This?</i> by Steve Jenkins and Robin Page (2003)*</li> <li>▪ <i>Amazing Whales!</i> by Sarah L. Thomson (2005)*</li> </ul>
1 <sup>1</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ “Mix a Pancake” by Christina G. Rossetti (1893)**</li> <li>▪ <i>Mr. Popper’s Penguins</i> by Richard Atwater (1938)*</li> <li>▪ <i>Little Bear</i> by Else Holmelund Minarik, illustrated by Maurice Sendak (1957)**</li> <li>▪ <i>Frog and Toad Together</i> by Arnold Lobel (1971)**</li> <li>▪ <i>Hi! Fly Guy</i> by Tedd Arnold (2006)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>A Tree Is a Plant</i> by Clyde Robert Bulla, illustrated by Stacey Schuett (1960)**</li> <li>▪ <i>Starfish</i> by Edith Thacher Hurd (1962)</li> <li>▪ <i>Follow the Water from Brook to Ocean</i> by Arthur Dorros (1991)**</li> <li>▪ <i>From Seed to Pumpkin</i> by Wendy Pfeffer, illustrated by James Graham Hale (2004)*</li> <li>▪ <i>How People Learned to Fly</i> by Fran Hodgkins and True Kelley (2007)*</li> </ul>
2–3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ “Who Has Seen the Wind?” by Christina G. Rossetti (1893)</li> <li>▪ <i>Charlotte’s Web</i> by E. B. White (1952)*</li> <li>▪ <i>Sarah, Plain and Tall</i> by Patricia MacLachlan (1985)</li> <li>▪ <i>Tops and Bottoms</i> by Janet Stevens (1995)</li> <li>▪ <i>Poppleton in Winter</i> by Cynthia Rylant, illustrated by Mark Teague (2001)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>A Medieval Feast</i> by Alikei (1983)</li> <li>▪ <i>From Seed to Plant</i> by Gail Gibbons (1991)</li> <li>▪ <i>The Story of Ruby Bridges</i> by Robert Coles (1995)*</li> <li>▪ <i>A Drop of Water: A Book of Science and Wonder</i> by Walter Wick (1997)</li> <li>▪ <i>Moonshot: The Flight of Apollo 11</i> by Brian Floca (2009)</li> </ul>
4–5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland</i> by Lewis Carroll (1865)</li> <li>▪ “Casey at the Bat” by Ernest Lawrence Thayer (1888)</li> <li>▪ <i>The Black Stallion</i> by Walter Farley (1941)</li> <li>▪ “Zlatch the Goat” by Isaac Bashevis Singer (1984)</li> <li>▪ <i>Where the Mountain Meets the Moon</i> by Grace Lin (2009)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Discovering Mars: The Amazing Story of the Red Planet</i> by Melvin Berger (1992)</li> <li>▪ <i>Hurricanes: Earth’s Mightiest Storms</i> by Patricia Lauber (1996)</li> <li>▪ <i>A History of US</i> by Joy Hakim (2005)</li> <li>▪ <i>Horses</i> by Seymour Simon (2006)</li> <li>▪ <i>Quest for the Tree Kangaroo: An Expedition to the Cloud Forest of New Guinea</i> by Sy Montgomery (2006)</li> </ul>

## Texts Illustrating the Complexity, Quality, and Range of Student Reading 6–12

Literature: Stories, Dramas, Poetry		Informational Texts: Literary Nonfiction	
6–8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Little Women</i> by Louisa May Alcott (1869)</li> <li>▪ <i>The Adventures of Tom Sawyer</i> by Mark Twain (1876)</li> <li>▪ “The Road Not Taken” by Robert Frost (1915)</li> <li>▪ <i>The Dark Is Rising</i> by Susan Cooper (1973)</li> <li>▪ <i>Dragonwings</i> by Laurence Yep (1975)</li> <li>▪ <i>Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry</i> by Mildred Taylor (1976)</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ “Letter on Thomas Jefferson” by John Adams (1776)</li> <li>▪ <i>Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave</i> by Frederick Douglass (1845)</li> <li>▪ “Blood, Toil, Tears and Sweat: Address to Parliament on May 13th, 1940” by Winston Churchill (1940)</li> <li>▪ <i>Harriet Tubman: Conductor on the Underground Railroad</i> by Ann Petry (1955)</li> <li>▪ <i>Travels with Charley: In Search of America</i> by John Steinbeck (1962)</li> </ul>
9–10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>The Tragedy of Macbeth</i> by William Shakespeare (1592)</li> <li>▪ “Ozymandias” by Percy Bysshe Shelley (1817)</li> <li>▪ “The Raven” by Edgar Allan Poe (1845)</li> <li>▪ “The Gift of the Magi” by O. Henry (1906)</li> <li>▪ <i>The Grapes of Wrath</i> by John Steinbeck (1939)</li> <li>▪ <i>Fahrenheit 451</i> by Ray Bradbury (1953)</li> <li>▪ <i>The Killer Angels</i> by Michael Shaara (1975)</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ “Speech to the Second Virginia Convention” by Patrick Henry (1775)</li> <li>▪ “Farewell Address” by George Washington (1796)</li> <li>▪ “Gettysburg Address” by Abraham Lincoln (1863)</li> <li>▪ “State of the Union Address” by Franklin Delano Roosevelt (1941)</li> <li>▪ “Letter from Birmingham Jail” by Martin Luther King, Jr. (1964)</li> <li>▪ “Hope, Despair and Memory” by Elie Wiesel (1997)</li> </ul>
11–CCR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ “Ode on a Grecian Urn” by John Keats (1820)</li> <li>▪ <i>Jane Eyre</i> by Charlotte Brontë (1848)</li> <li>▪ “Because I Could Not Stop for Death” by Emily Dickinson (1890)</li> <li>▪ <i>The Great Gatsby</i> by F. Scott Fitzgerald (1925)</li> <li>▪ <i>Their Eyes Were Watching God</i> by Zora Neale Hurston (1937)</li> <li>▪ <i>A Raisin in the Sun</i> by Lorraine Hansberry (1959)</li> <li>▪ <i>The Namesake</i> by Jhumpa Lahiri (2003)</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Common Sense</i> by Thomas Paine (1776)</li> <li>▪ <i>Walden</i> by Henry David Thoreau (1854)</li> <li>▪ “Society and Solitude” by Ralph Waldo Emerson (1857)</li> <li>▪ “The Fallacy of Success” by G. K. Chesterton (1909)</li> <li>▪ <i>Black Boy</i> by Richard Wright (1945)</li> <li>▪ “Politics and the English Language” by George Orwell (1946)</li> <li>▪ “Take the Tortillas Out of Your Poetry” by Rudolfo Anaya (1995)</li> </ul>