



MISSISSIPPI  
DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATION

Office of Elementary Education and Reading  
Office of Secondary Education  
Spring 2021

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### MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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# acknowledgments:

To ensure this list truly represented various backgrounds, cultures, and beliefs, a diverse group was required in order to collaborate and create this project. We would like to thank the following team members for their work.

From the Mississippi Department of Education, we would like to acknowledge:

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Thanks to their assistance with this project, we are confident that we are providing Mississippi educators, parents, and students with a resource that will equip them to be college, career, and culturally ready.

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# introduction:

“Words are not just words. They are the nexus-the interface-between communication and thought. When we read, it is through words that we build, refine, and modify our knowledge” Marilyn Jager Adams (2009, p. 180).

Mississippi strives to develop college- and career-ready students by building their capacity to make meaning of the world around them through reading. For students to become well-rounded readers and citizens, they need to engage with high-quality, rigorous texts that represent varying cultures, genres, and facets of the human experience.

This resource intends to equip educators to make purposeful instructional decisions around the Mississippi College- and Career-Readiness Standards while promoting literacy that purposefully builds on a reader’s knowledge. This resource also provides students with texts that will serve as “mirrors, windows, and sliding glass doors.” Mirrors reflect texts where students can see themselves in the characters and events, while windows apply to texts that allow students to look out into the larger world and experience cultures, life experiences, and communities different from their own. Sliding glass doors refer to texts that not only introduce students to stories different from their own but encourage them to walk through and move forward, acting in an attempt to change the narrative.

Through a collaborative process, Mississippi teachers, administrators, parents, counselors, and librarians contributed to the creation of this list; consideration of individual texts and their potential for intertextuality through pairing was a factor in title selection.

The opportunities and applications for this resource are varied; therefore, teacher guidance and review are essential to providing students with appropriate and balanced reading choices that will ultimately foster increased independent reading and stamina. This resource is best utilized in conjunction with an MDE adopted [High-Quality Instructional Materials](#).

While appropriate within the context of the text, titles may contain content or topics that may require additional conversations. Administrators, teachers, counselors, librarians, and families should make informed decisions regarding text selections, and if a text for consideration is not familiar, please review the book prior to use. Teachers and librarians can use the [Reading Assignment Approval Form](#) if necessary, but it is not required for reading assignments or assessments.

**RESOURCE** Adams, M. J. (2009). The challenge of advanced texts: The interdependence of reading and learning. In E. H. Hiebert (Ed.), *Reading more, reading better: Are American students reading enough of the right stuff?* (pp. 163–189). New York, NY: Guilford.

# methodology:

The books identified in this list were not chosen at random; to appear on this list, a title had to meet specific criteria as outlined by a rubric developed by a team composed of a librarian, literacy personnel, a college professor, and a high school English teacher. The specific components of the rubric helped the team identify whether a chosen text contained:

- ability to help students build knowledge,
- appropriate grade-level complexity,
- a balance of diverse characters, cultures, perspectives, orientations, races, and ages, and
- content specific topics addressed by the Mississippi College- and Career-Readiness Standards.

The formal rubric used in the book-identification process can be found in the appendices of this document.

In addition, the team made the decision to focus on identifying newer texts in the hope that the themes and characters would be more relatable to students. While newer texts were a priority, the team also recognized the importance of classic texts and made attempts to present traditional titles in newer formats, such as graphic novels, to make these texts appealing to the modern student. The team used resources such as the *Magnolia* book list, *Novelist*, *We Need Diverse Books*, *Common Sense Media*, and *Teaching Books* to help identify potential titles.

Selected texts were then presented to a panel composed of Mississippi educators and parents, including public school teachers, librarians, administrators, counselors, and literacy coaches. This panel reviewed each text thoroughly, using a second rubric to rate and/or categorize each title on the following criteria:

- Publication date,
- Bilingual or graphic formats,
- Award winner,
- Diversity or Social Emotional considerations,
- Grade-level appropriateness, and
- Connection to established booklist themes.

Once reviewed by the panel, additional considerations were made for a text's potential to promote culturally responsive learning, build content knowledge, and social and emotional development.

## CULTURAL RESPONSIVE TEACHING

an approach that emphasizes “using the cultural knowledge, prior experiences, frames of reference, and performance styles of ethnically diverse students to make learning encounters more relevant to and effective for them. - Geneva Gay

## SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING

is the process through which children manage emotions, show empathy for others, maintain positive relationships, and make responsible decisions.

## the shifts:

The Mississippi College- and Career- Readiness Standards were designed to be robust and relevant to the real world, reflecting the knowledge and skills students need for success in college and careers and to compete in the global economy. In order for these standards to be truly met, they must be addressed under the umbrella of the three instructional shifts: text complexity, finding evidence, and building knowledge. These shifts serve as a framework for cultivating language comprehension in the classroom.

Through regular practice with complex texts and their academic language, students are able to meet the steady demands of the standards as they increase through the grade bands. This focus on grade-level (and above) complex text equips students to master not only the reading standards, but to grow in their language, speaking, and listening skills. This booklist allows students to experience new and exciting worlds through interactive read alouds and book studies of high-interest and high complexity text.

Reading, writing, and speaking must be grounded in evidence from texts. This emphasis on locating evidence, from both literary and informational text, require students to read carefully and grasp information, arguments, ideas and details based on evidence directly from the text. The complex texts included in this booklist allow countless opportunities for teachers to develop both text-dependent and text-specific questions that require students to locate evidence from the materials.

Building knowledge through content-rich nonfiction allows students to be immersed in information about the world and develop strong general knowledge and vocabulary. In K-5, meeting this shift requires a 50/50 balance between informational and literary reading with a heavy emphasis on content-rich nonfiction in history/social studies, sciences, technical studies, and the arts. For grades 6-12, this is the core of the work as the standards for literacy are embedded throughout other subject areas. *The Equipped Booklist* has a strong pairing of fiction and nonfiction, along with examples on creating knowledge-building text sets that allow for deep understanding of important information about the world.

## text complexity:

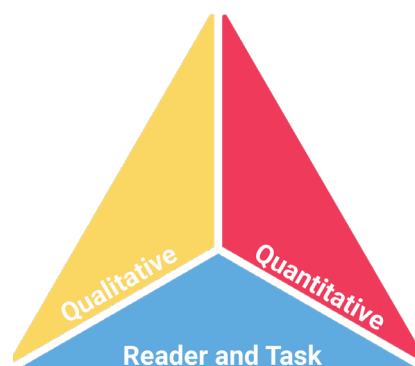
Within the considerations for text complexity, a key shift of the standards, there are three important elements to consider: quantitative elements, qualitative elements, and the reader and task. Each element is of equal importance during text selection for students. Below are details for how each element connects to the Equipped Booklist.

Through quantitative measures, a text is analyzed typically through a computer software based on items such as word length or frequency, sentence length, and text cohesion. For this booklist, Lexile measures were provided for each text when available. More information on Lexile levels can be found on the following page.

Qualitative features address four separate dimensions of text complexity. These include the meaning/purpose of the text, how the text is structured, the language used within the text, and the knowledge demands placed on students. Educators should carefully read through each text before presenting it to students to ensure appropriateness for the grade level and planned scaffolds to provide access for all.

The final element of text complexity considers the reader and task. This piece includes considerations of motivation, prior knowledge and experiences, and the overall purpose of interacting with the text.

For more information on identifying text complexity, visit <https://achievethecore.org/page/2725/text-complexity>.



# lexile consideration:

Recently, Lexile levels have shifted, increasing in complexity at the lower grades. However, what has not shifted is the expectation that elementary students should be exposed to high-quality, rigorous text. Students need the opportunity to experience complex language and themes in authentic settings, both read independently and as part of a read-aloud experience. It is recommended that adults choose texts 1-3 grade levels higher than the child's independent reading level when selecting texts for read-aloud experiences.

## Implementation Help:

- Focus all students on the same rich, read-aloud anchor texts (as defined by the chart below) multiple times a week.
- Organize units around conceptually-related topics (and content-rich themes for literary texts) that build knowledge through anchor texts and volume of reading.
- Provide and adjust instructional scaffolds so every student can engage with the anchor texts, rather than restrict students to texts at their prescribed independent reading level. Scaffolds could include building knowledge about the topic of the text under study, providing access to texts read aloud, etc.

**RESOURCE** [achievethecore.org/content/upload/Supporting%20All%20Learners%20with%20Complex%20Text.pdf](https://achievethecore.org/content/upload/Supporting%20All%20Learners%20with%20Complex%20Text.pdf)



**RESOURCE** [strongreadersms.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Find-A-Book.pdf](https://strongreadersms.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Find-A-Book.pdf)

## **The Importance of Read-Alouds**

Reading aloud to students continues to be one of the most important activities for building knowledge, enriching vocabulary, exposing students to worlds beyond their own, and providing access to text for all. Typically, teachers should conduct read-alouds with text one to three grade levels above to allow for exposure to rich language and deep concepts. The Equipped Booklist will enable students to engage independently and explore new ideas and worlds with the classroom teacher through interactive read-alouds, even at the highest grade level. Educators must keep in mind the quantitative measures, qualitative features, and reader and task to make the best read-aloud decisions for their classroom instruction.

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## **Wordless Picture Books and Picture Books**

Some books have no written text, therefore they have no assigned Lexile value. However, wordless picture books and picture books serve an important purpose in the Literacy classroom and for all learners.

In wordless picture books, the detailed illustrations tell the story. Teachers and parents can use these particular texts as a foundation for vocabulary development and language acquisition by guiding conversation around what students notice on each page. Students can be encouraged to write their own descriptions and narratives to accompany the images. Even though there are no written words, students can still be guided through the text using a close-reading lesson format to help them find the detail and nuance the illustrations provide.

In a similar way, picture books should be considered as appropriate for students in all elementary grades, as they frequently incorporate complex language and themes which are supported by the illustrations. Students can be guided through a picture walk prior to reading the text as a way to support their wonderings and introduce them to key vocabulary.

Wordless picture books and picture books are excellent resources to support deeper units of learning. Through visuals, they support student understanding of vocabulary, allow them to visualize the content and building of background knowledge.

# understanding the book lists:



## GLOSSARY OF TERMS

**BILINGUAL FORMAT:** a book that is available in multiple languages

**DIGITAL FORMAT:** a book that is available as an audio book or an ebook

**FICTION:** literature that describes imaginary events and people

**GRAPHIC FORMAT:** a book written in comic-strip format or illustrated features, or a wordless picture book

**LEXILE (L):** a measurement of the reading level of a text

**NONFICTION:** writing that is based on facts, real events or people, such as biography or history

## LEGEND

-  Award Winner
-  Bilingual Format(s) Available
-  Digital Format Available
-  Graphic Format: Wordless Picture Books, Graphic or Illustrated Books

## LEXILE CODES

**AD – ADULT DIRECTED:** Better when read aloud to a student rather than having the student read independently

**GN – GRAPHIC NOVEL:** Graphic novels or comic books

**HL – HIGH-LOW:** Content to engage older students who need materials that are less complex and at a lower reading level

**NA – NOT AVAILABLE:** Lexile level has not been assigned to the text

**NC – NON-CONFORMING:** Good for high-ability readers who still need age-appropriate content



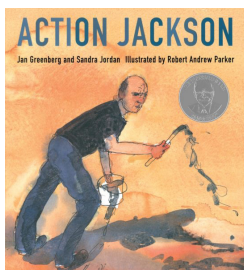
2nd GRADE

# book lists:



# BUILDING KNOWLEDGE ART TOPIC

## ART AND ARTISTS

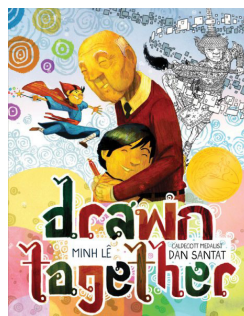


### Action Jackson

By: Jan Greenberg (2002)

Imagines Jackson Pollock at work during the creation of one of his paint-swirled and splattered canvasses. **NF** 32pgs

LEXILE: 750L  





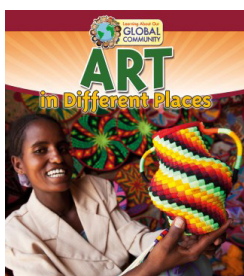
### Drawn Together

By: Minh Le (2018)

When a young boy visits his grandfather, their lack of a common language leads to confusion, frustration, and silence. But as they sit down to draw together, something magical happens-with a shared love of art and storytelling, the two form a bond that goes beyond words.

**F** 34pgs

LEXILE: AD310L  



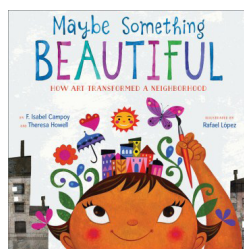
### Art in Different Place

By: Robin Johnson (2018)

Looks at the rich diversity of artforms in different places around the world. From decorative art formssuch as basketweaving to painting,sculpture, and other visual arts,readers will understand how artisan expression of culture.

**NF** 24pgs

LEXILE: 830L 





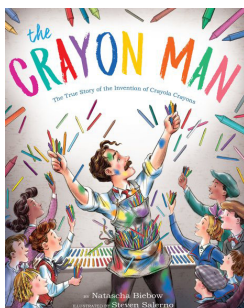
### Maybe Something Beautiful

By: Isabel F. Campoy (2016)

Mira lives in a gray and hopeless urban community until a muralist arrives and, along with his paints and brushes, brings color, joy, and togetherness to Mira and her neighbors.

**F** 36pgs

LEXILE: AD580L  



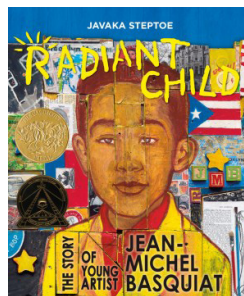
### The Crayon Man: The True Story of the Invention of Crayola Crayons

By: Natascha Biebow (2019)

Celebrating the inventor of the Crayola crayon! This gloriously illustrated picture book biography tells the inspiring story of Edwin Binney, the inventor of one of the world's most beloved toys.

**NF** 40pgs

LEXILE: 960L  




### Radiant Child: The Story of Young Artist Jean-Michel Basquiat

By: Jacaka Steptoe (2016)

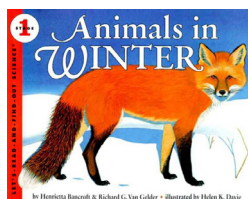
Jean-Michel Basquiat and hisunique, collage-style paintingsrocketed to fame in the 1980sas a cultural phenomenon unlikeanything the art world had everseen.

**NF** 32pgs

LEXILE: 1050L  

# BUILDING KNOWLEDGE SCIENCE TOPIC

## ANIMAL BEHAVIORS



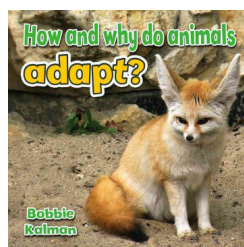
### Animals in Winter

By: Henrietta Bancroft (1997)

Have you ever seen a butterfly in the snow? Probably not. Butterflies can't survive cold weather, so when winter comes, many butterflies fly to warmer places. They migrate. Woodchucks don't like cold weather either but they don't migrate; they hibernate. Woodchucks sleep in their dens all winter long. Read and find out how other animals cope with winter's worst weather.

NF 32pgs

LEXILE: AD480L

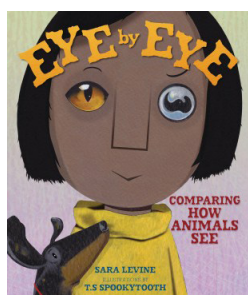


### How and Why Do Animals Adapt?

By: Bobbie Kalman (2015)

Animals adapt, or change, to stay alive. Adaptation can happen in an animal's body or in the way it behaves. Some adaptations have taken place over many years, and others are caused by changing habitats due to the actions of people. NF 24pgs

LEXILE: NC650L



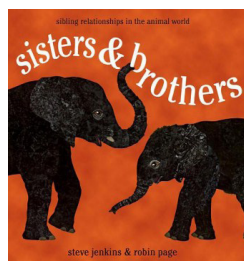
### Eye by Eye: Comparing How Animals See

By: Sara Levine (2021)

What kind of animal would you be if you had eight eyes? Or if your pupils were the shape of the letter W? Keep an eye out for weird and surprising facts in this playful picture book, which brings together comparative anatomy with a guessing game format.

NF 32pgs

LEXILE: N/A



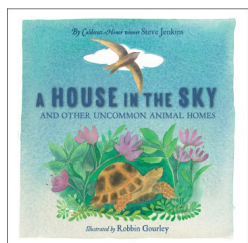
### Sisters and Brothers: Sibling Relationships in the Animal World

By: Steve Jenkins (2008)

Accompanied by cut-and-torn-paper collages set against stark white backgrounds, the text provides basic information about each animal and details how each

interacts with its siblings in the wild. For example, grizzly bears fight each other until one eventually leaves, and female African elephants take care of younger siblings. NF 32pgs

LEXILE: 980L

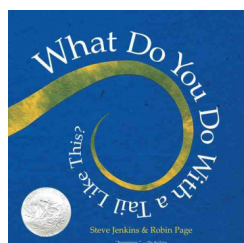


### A House in the Sky and Other Uncommon Animal Homes

By: Steve Jenkins (2018)

Dual layers of text explain how and why diverse animals make homes specific to their needs. From the turtle's shell, the beaver's lodge, or the seal's cave, each animal requires a special kind of home. NF 32pgs

LEXILE: N/A



### What Do You Do With a Tail Like That?

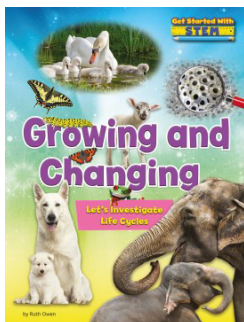
By: Steve Jenkins (2003)

A nose for digging? Ears for seeing? Eyes that squirt blood? Turn the page to find out which marvelous animal these attributes belong to. This nonfiction picture book provides a basic discussion on different parts of various animals' bodies. NF 32pgs

LEXILE: 510L

# BUILDING KNOWLEDGE SCIENCE TOPIC

## CYCLES IN NATURE

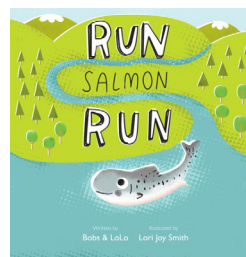


### Growing and Changing: Let's Investigate Life Cycles

By: Ruth Owen (2017)

Readers will investigate and discover a range of animal life cycles. How does a tadpole become a frog? In what ways do lambs, puppies, baby mice, woodpecker chicks, and caterpillars change and grow? And how do animals care for their young? **NF** 32pgs

LEXILE: 620L 

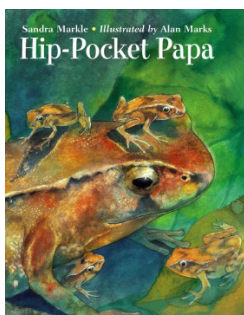


### Run Salmon Run

By: Lori Joy Smith (2020)

Dive into the world of salmon in this lyrically written and beautifully illustrated children's book. The story follows the journey of the Pacific Salmon from stream to sea and back again through all the life stages: egg, alevin, fry, smolt, adult. **F** 36pgs

LEXILE: N/A



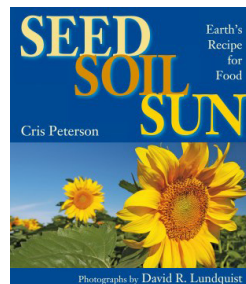
### Hip-Pocket Papa

By: Sandra Markle (2017)

The male Australian hip-pocket frog, no bigger than an adult human's thumbnail, cares for his children as they grow from tadpoles to young froglets inside the pouches on his legs.

**NF** 32pgs

LEXILE: AD650L 

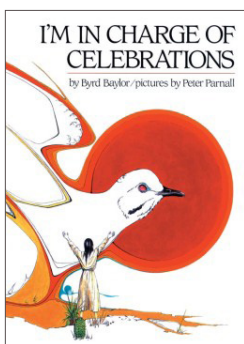


### Seed, Soil, Sun: Earth's Recipe for Food

By: Cris Peterson (2010)

Seed, Soil, Sun. With these simple ingredients, nature creates our food. Follows a corn plant from tiny seed to giant plant in an explanation of how air and water combine with seed, soil, and sun to grow food. **NF** 32pgs

LEXILE: AD1050L 





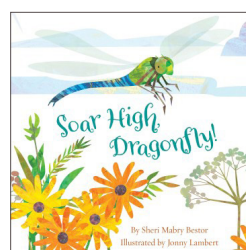
### I'm in Charge of Celebrations

By: Byrd Baylor (1986)

A dweller in the desert celebrates a triple rainbow, a chance encounter with a coyote, and other wonders of Earth's cycle.

**F** 31pgs

LEXILE: 700L  



### Soar High, Dragonfly!

By: Sheri Mabry Bestor (2019)

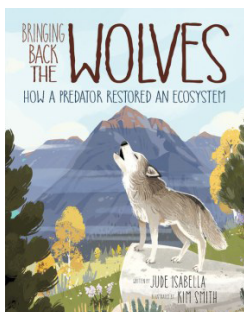
The story of a single dragonfly from egg to adult is featured in the main text, while a parallel text rounds out the scientific facts. Colorful collage-like illustrations portray each stage in the dragonfly life cycle: pond-side as eggs are laid, under water as a nymph, then up into the air as an adult. **NF** 26pgs

LEXILE: 590L  



# BUILDING KNOWLEDGE SCIENCE TOPIC

## ECOLOGY



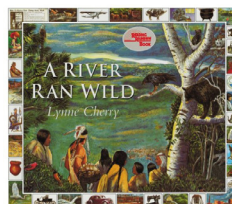
### Bringing Back the Wolves: How a Predator Restored an Ecosystem

By: Jude Isabella (2020)

By 1926, there were no grey wolves left in Yellowstone National Park, due to a programme by the US government to eliminate threats to livestock. As a result virtually every other part of the park's ecosystem was affected and the landscape was in distress.

NF 39pgs

LEXILE: 1020L

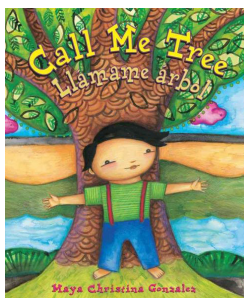


### A River Ran Wild: An Environmental History

By: Lynne Cherry (2002)

An environmental history of the Nashua River, from its discovery by Indians through the polluting years of the Industrial Revolution to the ambitious clean-up that revitalized it. NF 32pgs

LEXILE: 670L



### Call Me Tree

By: Maya Christina Gonzalez (2014)

A bilingual poetic tale that follows one child/tree from the depths of Mami/Earth to the heights of the sky, telling a story about being free to grow and be who we are meant to be and honoring our relationship with the natural world. F 24pgs

LEXILE: N/A



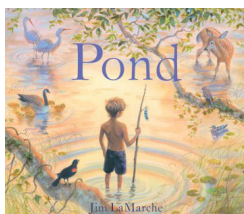
### Sparrow Girl

By: Sara Penny Packer (2009)

Ming-Li vows to save as many sparrows as she can after her country's leader called sparrows the enemy of the farmer and banished them all from China.

F 32pgs

LEXILE: AD590L



### Pond

By: Jim LaMarche (2016)

When Matt is out for a late winter hike he sees a trickle of water in the old deserted and junk filled dirt pit at the edge of his neighborhood. With quiet

appreciation, Matt can imagine the pond that must once have been there, shining in the early spring light, freezing in the winter for skating and the perfect place for swimming in the summer.

F 40pgs

LEXILE: AD600L



### Spring After Spring

By: Stephanie Roth Sisson (2018)

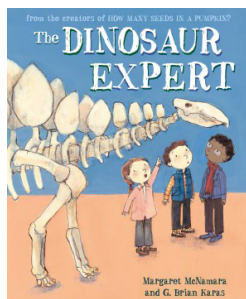
As a child, Rachel Carson lived by the rhythms of the natural world. Spring after spring, year after year, she observed how all living things are connected. And as an adult, Rachel watched and listened as the natural world she loved so much began to fall silent. NF 31pgs

LEXILE: AD790L



# BUILDING KNOWLEDGE SCIENCE TOPIC

## FOSSILS AND DINOSAURS



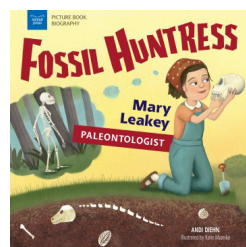
### The Dinosaur Expert

By: Margaret McNamara (2018)

Future scientist Kimmy eagerly shares information about dinosaurs during a school field trip until classmate Jake tells her 'girls aren't scientists,' but Mr. Tiffin sets her straight.

F 34pgs

LEXILE: AD550L

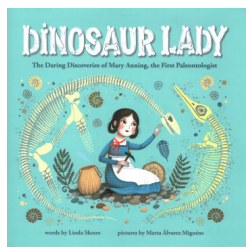


### Fossil Huntress: Mary Leakey, Paleontologist

By: Andi Diehn (2019)

A fascinating picture book biography about Mary Leakey, a paleontologist who worked long hours in the fields of Tanzania - includes STEM activities for real world learning! NF 32pgs

LEXILE: 760L



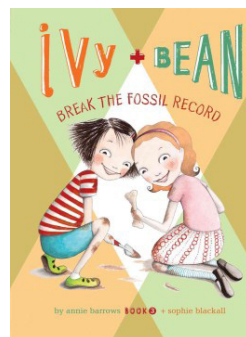
### The Dinosaur Lady: The Daring Discoveries of Mary Anning

By: Linda Skeers (2020)

Mary Anning loved scouring the beach near her home in England for shells and fossils. She fearlessly climbed over crumbling cliffs and rocky peaks, searching for new specimens. One day, something caught Mary's eye. Bones. Dinosaur Bones.

NF 40pgs

LEXILE: N/A



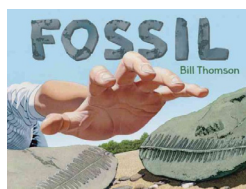
### Ivy and Bean: Break the Fossil Record

By: Annie Barrows (2011)

Everyone in second grade seems set on breaking a world record and friends Ivy and Bean are no exception, deciding to become the youngest people ever to discover a dinosaur skeleton.

F 114pgs

LEXILE: 600L



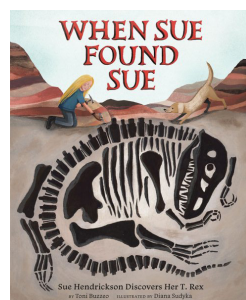
### Fossil

By: Bill Thomson (2013)

When a boy and his dog go for a hike, the boy trips on a fossil, and it comes to life, revealing an ancient plant. The boy is so

intrigued that he breaks two more fossils that come to life - a dragonfly and a pteranodon. When these prehistoric creatures collide with present reality, the boy must figure out a way to make things go back to normal. F 40pgs

LEXILE: NP



### When Sue Found Sue: Sue Hendrickson Discovers Her T. Rex

By: Toni Buzzee (2019)

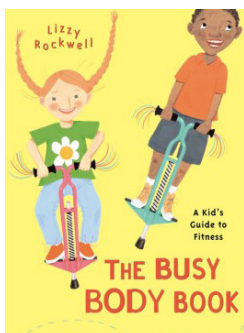
Sue Hendrickson was a shy child who loved to find things. In her career she found shipwrecks, amber, and other treasures. But she is most known for finding Sue, the most complete T. Rex fossil found to date. NF 32pgs

LEXILE: N/A



# BUILDING KNOWLEDGE SCIENCE TOPIC

## HEALTHY BODIES



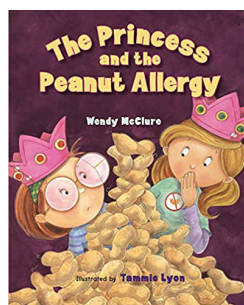
### The Busy Body Book

By: Lizzy Rockwell (2004)

Presents a children's fitness guide that explains how the bones, muscles, heart, and lungs work to keep the body healthy and strong.

NF 40pgs

LEXILE: 680L 

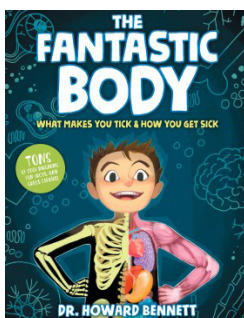


### The Princess and the Peanut Allergy

By: Wendy McClure (2019)

Regina must find a solution when she learns her best friend has a peanut allergy and cannot eat Regina's fabulous planned birthday cake. F 32pgs

LEXILE: AD470L



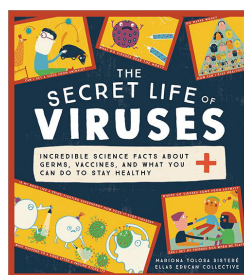
### The Fantastic Body: What Makes You Tick and How You Get Sick

By: Howard J. Bennett (2017)

Written by a pediatrician, this is the ultimate kids' reference guide to the human body! Jam-packed with fun facts, cool diagrams, and gross stories galore, this go-to guide will captivate curious readers for hours on end.

NF 248pgs

LEXILE: 980L 



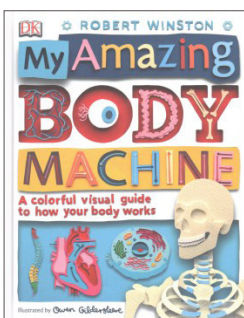
### The Secret Life of Viruses

By: Mariona Tolosa Sistere (2021)

Young readers will learn about what viruses are, how they reproduce and spread, how our bodies fight them, the history of viruses in the world and more.

NF 32pgs

LEXILE: N/A

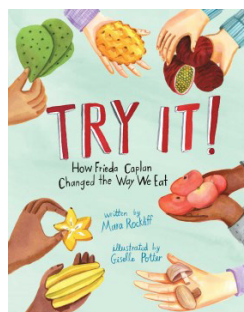


### My Amazing Body Machine

By: Richard Walker (2017)

From the intricately wired brain and structured skeleton to the relentlessly pumping heart and rising and falling lungs, each part of the amazing human body is explored through the incredible paper-crafted artworks. With clear text and fascinating bite-size facts, this visual guide makes learning about the human body fun, and real-life example. NF 128pgs

LEXILE: IG890L  



### Try it: How Frieda Caplan Changed the Way We Eat

By: Mara Rockliff (2021)

Meet fearless Frieda Caplan - the produce pioneer who changed the way Americans eat by introducing exciting new fruits and vegetables, from baby carrots to blood oranges to kiwis.

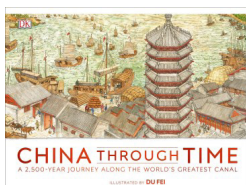
NF 32pgs

LEXILE: N/A 



# BUILDING KNOWLEDGE SOCIAL STUDIES TOPIC

## ASIAN CULTURES AND CIVILIZATIONS



### China Through Time

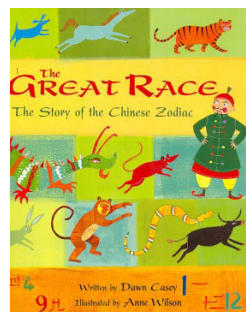
By: Fei Du (2020)

Spanning 2,500 years and 1,115 miles (1,794 km), from Hangzhou in the south to Beijing in the north, *China Through Time* tells

the fascinating story of China's Grand Canal - the world's longest and oldest man-made waterway. Meet emperors, armies, and soldiers from early Chinese history, and follow the construction and development of the Grand Canal up to the present.

NF 31pgs

LEXILE: N/A



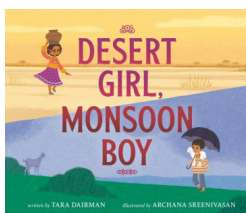
### The Great Race: The Story of the Chinese Zodiac

By: Dawn Casey (2006)

And they're off! Thirteen creatures in China have come to the river to join in the Emperor's race. Who will win the ultimate honor of naming the first year of the new calendar? And what will happen

to the thirteenth animal? Join Rat, Monkey, Dragon and all. F 32pgs

LEXILE: N/A



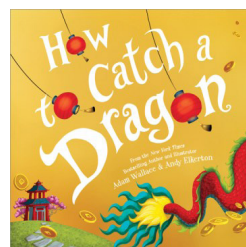
### Desert Girl, Monsoon Boy

By: Tara Dairman (2020)

Extreme weather affects two children's lives in very different ways and shows how the power of nature can bring us together.

While she turns her shoulder to sandstorms and blistering winds, he cuffs his pants when heavy rains begin to fall. The journeys of these two children experiencing weather extremes in India highlight the power of nature and the resilience of the human spirit. F 21pgs

LEXILE: N/A



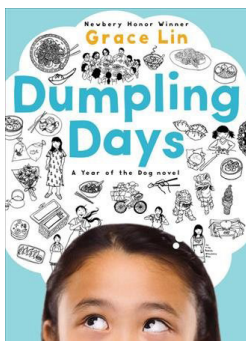
### How to Catch a Dragon

By: Adam Wallace (2019)

In unevenly metered rhyme, a real, wily dragon winds through streets in China, eluding the traps set by a group of children during the Chinese New Year celebration.

F 32pgs

LEXILE: 520L



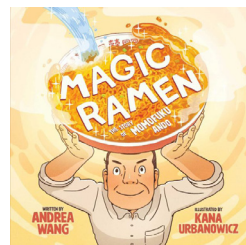
### Dumpling Days

By: Grace Lin (2015)

When Pacy, her two sisters, and their parents go to Taiwan to celebrate Grandma's sixtieth birthday, the girls learn a great deal about their heritage.

F 32pgs

LEXILE: 520L



### Magic Ramen: The Story of Momofuku Ando

By: Andrea Wang (2019)

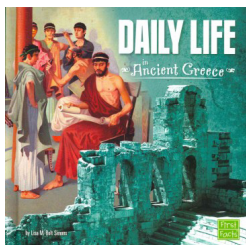
Inspiration struck when Momofuku Ando spotted the long lines for a simple bowl of ramen following World War II. Magic Ramen tells the true story behind the creation of one of the world's most popular foods. NF 36pgs

LEXILE: 820L



# BUILDING KNOWLEDGE SOCIAL STUDIES TOPIC

## GREEK CULTURES AND CIVILIZATIONS



### Daily Life in Ancient Greece

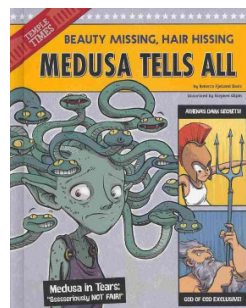
By: Lisa Simons (2015)

Imagine what it was like living in ancient Greece. Did all kids go to school? What did adults do for a living? And how did ancient Greeks spend their free time?

Learn the answers to these questions and more as you discover what day-to-day life was like for the ancient Greeks.

NF 24pgs

LEXILE: 740L



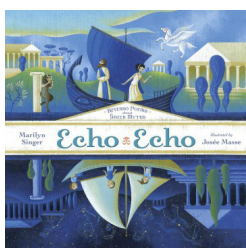
### Medusa Tells All: Beauty Missing, Hair Hissing

By: Rebecca Fjelland Davis (2014)

Medusa presents her side of the story when she retells the classic Greek myth "Medusa" and reveals who was really responsible for her beauty turning to ugliness.

F 32pgs

LEXILE: 560L



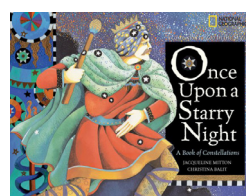
### Echo Echo: Reverso Poems about Greek Myths

By: Marilyn Singer (2015)

A collection of "reverso" poems, which can be read both top to bottom and bottom to top coherently, that pay homage to classic Greek myths surrounding Arachne, Midas, Icarus, Narcissus, Pygmalion, and other figures.

F 78pgs

LEXILE: 670L



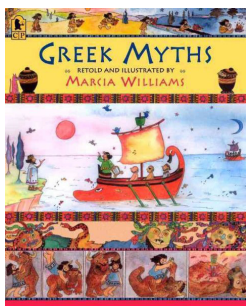
### Once Upon a Starry Night

By: Jacqueline Mitton (2003)

Presents facts about stars, nebulae, galaxies, and constellations and recounts the Greek myths that provided widely-known names for ten constellations, from Andromeda to Pegasus.

NF 26pgs

LEXILE: NC990L



### Greek Myths

By: Marcia Williams (2011)

Greek myths are among the most exciting stories ever told. In this collection, Marcia Williams offers a fun but faithful retelling of eight myths using simple language and her signature comic-strip format.

F 36pgs

LEXILE: N/A



### Weird But True: Greek Mythology

By: Sarah Wassner Flynn (2018)

This is the perfect companion book to dive a little deeper into Greek mythology. From who gave mankind fire to famous fatal flaws to who stood guard at the Underworld, this book includes all the iconic Greek myths and key characters.

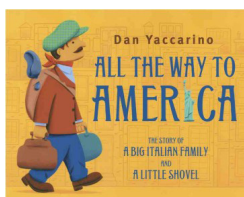
NF 191pgs

LEXILE: N/A



# BUILDING KNOWLEDGE SOCIAL STUDIES TOPIC

## IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP

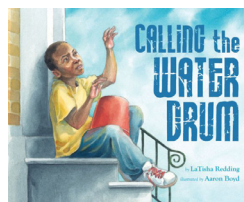


### All the Way to America

By: Dan Yaccarino (2011)

Dan Yaccarino's great-grandfather arrived at Ellis Island with a small shovel and his parents' good advice: "Work hard, but remember to enjoy life, and never forget your family." **NF** 34pgs

LEXILE: AD830L



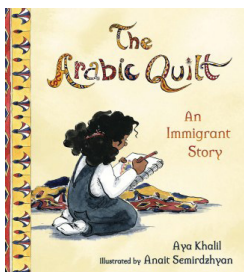
### Calling the Water Drum

By: LaTisha Redding (2016)

A young boy loses both parents as they attempt to flee Haiti for a better life, and afterward is only able to process his grief and communicate with the outside world through playing the drums.

**F** 32pgs

LEXILE: AD550L



### The Arabic Quilt

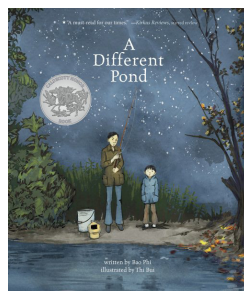
By: Aya Khalil (2020)

Kanzi's family has moved from Egypt to America, and on her first day in a new school, what she wants more than anything is to fit in. Maybe that's why she forgets to take the kofta sandwich her mother has made for her lunch,

but that backfires when Mama shows up at school with the sandwich. Mama wears a hijab and calls her daughter Habibt (dear one). When she leaves, the teasing starts.

**F** 35pgs

LEXILE: 710L



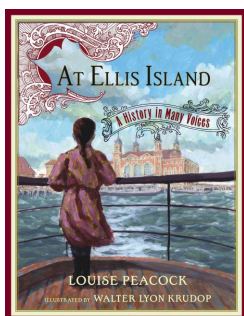
### A Different Pond

By: Bao Phi (2017)

As a young boy, Bao Phi awoke early to fish on the shores of a small pond in Minneapolis. Unlike many other anglers, Bao and his father fished for food, not recreation. Between hope-filled casts, Bao's father told him about a different pond in their homeland of Vietnam.

**F** 40pgs

LEXILE: 620L



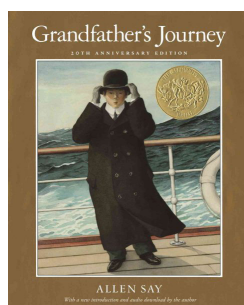
### At Ellis Island

By: Louise Peacock (2007)

Ellis Island was the gateway to America and the promise of freedom for thousands. Its walls are rich with stories. In this book we hear myriad of those voices.

**F** 44pgs

LEXILE: N/A



### Grandfather's Journey

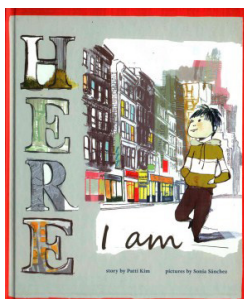
By: Allen Say (2013)

A Japanese American man recounts his grandfather's journey to America, which he later also undertakes, and the feelings of being torn by a love for two different countries.

**F** 32pgs

LEXILE: AD650L





### Here I Am

By: Patti Kim (2015)

Newly arrived from their far away homeland, a boy and his family enter into the lights, noise, and traffic of a busy American city - how will he once again become the happy, confident kid he used to be? Walk in his shoes as he takes the first steps toward discovering his new world.

NF 40pgs

LEXILE: NP



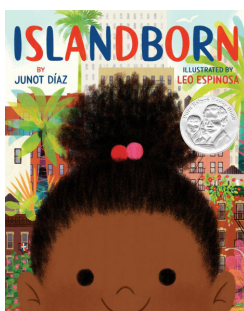
### The Most Beautiful Thing

By: Kalia Kao Yang (2020)

When Kalia becomes unhappy about having to do without and decides she wants braces to improve her smile, it is her grandmother - a woman who has just one tooth in her mouth - who helps her see that true beauty is found with those we love most.

NF 34pgs

LEXILE: N/A

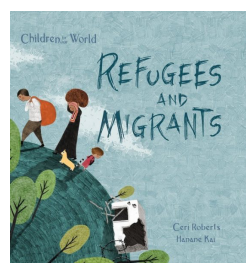


### Islandborn

By: Junot Díaz (2018)

Lola was just a baby when her family left the Island, so when she has to draw it for a school assignment, she asks her family, friends, and neighbors about their memories of her homeland and in the process, comes up with a new way of understanding her own heritage. F 32pgs

LEXILE: AD600L

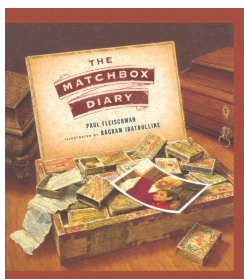


### Refugees and Migrants

By: Ceri Roberts (2017)

This book discusses the questions "What does it mean to be a refugee - or a migrant? Why would people leave their homes?" It answers kids' questions, offers reassurance, and empowers them with ways they can help those affected. NF 32pgs

LEXILE: N/A

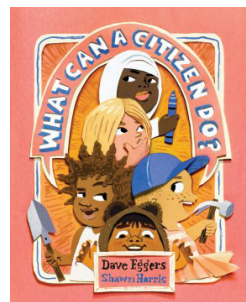


### The Matchbox Diary

By: Paul Fleischman (2013)

When a little girl visits her great-grandfather at his curio-filled home, she chooses an unusual object to learn about: an old cigar box. What she finds inside surprises her: a collection of matchboxes making up her great-grandfather's diary, harboring objects she can hold in her hand, each one evoking a memory. F 40pgs

LEXILE: AD610L



### What Can a Citizen Do?

By: Dave Eggers (2018)

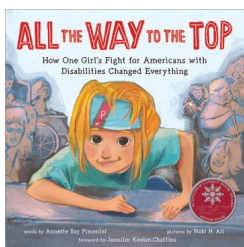
This is a book about what good citizenship means to you, and to us all. Across the course of several seemingly unrelated but ultimately connected actions by different children, we watch a journey from what the world should be to what the world could be. NF 40pgs

LEXILE: 340L



# BUILDING KNOWLEDGE SOCIAL STUDIES TOPIC

## LIBERTY, JUSTICE, AND EQUALITY

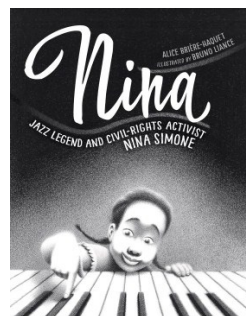


### All the Way to the Top

By: Annette Bay Pimentel (2020)

Jennifer Keelan was determined to make a change - even if she was just a kid. She never thought her wheelchair could slow her down, but the way the world around her was built made it hard to do even simple things, Like going to school, or eating lunch in the cafeteria. **NF** 32pgs

LEXILE: AD680L



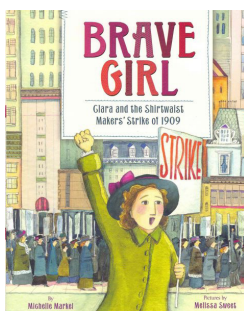
### Nina: Jazz Legend and Civil Rights Activist, Nina Simone

By: Alice Briere-Haquet (2017)

With black-and-white illustrations, readers are introduced to Nina Simone, jazz-music legend and Civil Rights activist. Shared as a lullaby to her daughter, a soulful song recounts Simone's career,

the trials she faced as an African American woman, and the stand she took during the Civil Rights Movement. **NF** 34pgs

LEXILE: 560L

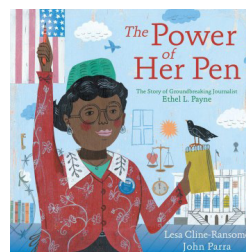


### Brave Girl: Clara and the Shirtwaist Makers' Strike of 1909

By: Michelle Markel (2013)

Describes how immigrant Clara Lemlich fought back against the poor treatment of her fellow factory workers and led the largest walkout of women workers in the country. **NF** 32pgs

LEXILE: AD760L



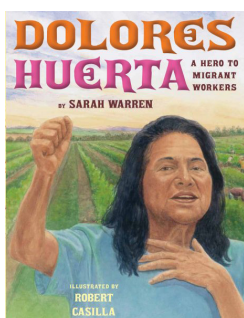
### The Power of Her Pen

By: Lesa Cline-Ransome (2020)

Ethel Payne always had an ear for stories. Seeking truth, justice, and equality, Ethel followed stories from her school newspaper in Chicago to Japan during World War II. It even led her to the White House briefing room.

**NF** 32pgs

LEXILE: NC1080L

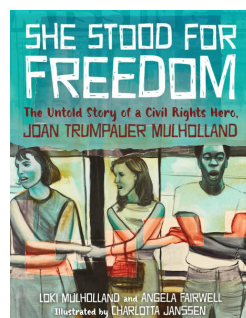


### Dolores Huerta: A Hero to Migrant Workers

By: Sarah E. Warren (2012)

An illustrated look at the life and accomplishments of Dolores Huerta, who fought to ensure fair and safe work places for migrant workers. Includes a timeline and resources for teachers. **NF** 32pgs

LEXILE: AD520L



### She Stood for Freedom

By: Loki Mulholland (2016)

A son pays tribute to his mother in this picture book biography of Civil Rights activist Joan Trumpauer Mulholland. She participated in demonstrations and Freedom Rides, was arrested, attended an all-black college, and joined lunch-counter sit-ins.

**NF** 40pgs

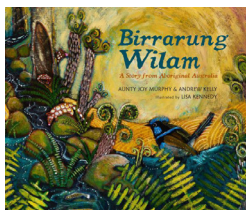
LEXILE: N/A





# BUILDING KNOWLEDGE SOCIAL STUDIES TOPIC

## ORAL TRADITIONS AROUND THE WORLD

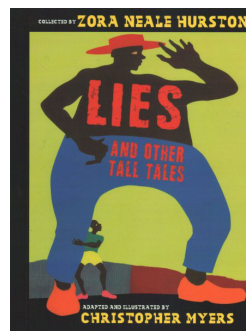


### **Birraring Wilam: A Story from Aboriginal Australia** By: Auntie Joy Murphy (2020)

Travel along Melbourne's twisting Yarra River in a glorious celebration of Indigenous culture

and Australia's unique flora and fauna. As ngua rises, Bunjil soars over mountain ash, flying higher and higher as the wind warms. Below, Birraring begins its long winding path down to palem warreen. **F** 32pgs

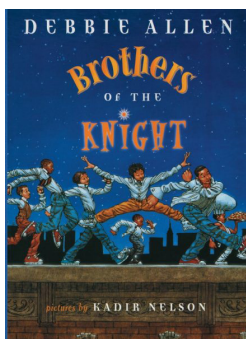
LEXILE: N/A



### **Lies and Other Tall Tales** By: Christopher Myers (2005)

While traveling in the Gulf States in the 1930s, Zora Neale Hurston collected and recorded some real whoppers told by folks from all walks of life. Not "dog ate my homework" kind of lies, but tales so wild you didn't ever want to hear the truth. **F** 40pgs

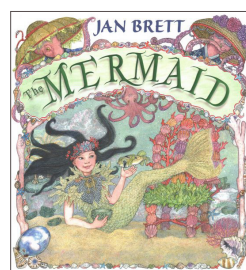
LEXILE: N/A



### **Brothers of the Knight** By: Debbie Allen (2001)

In this contemporary retelling of the fairy tale "Twelve Dancing Princesses," an African-American reverend in Harlem endeavors to discover why the shoes of his twelve sons are worn to pieces every morning. **F** 39pgs

LEXILE: 720L



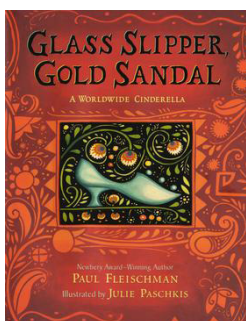
### **The Mermaid** By: Jan Brett (2017)

When a young mermaid named Kiri makes herself at home in the Octopus family house, she eats their food, ruins their things, and eventually curls up for a nap in Baby Octopus' bed. And though the Octopuses are angry

to find their things in disarray, Kiri leaves them with something that makes them all happy.

**F** 32pgs

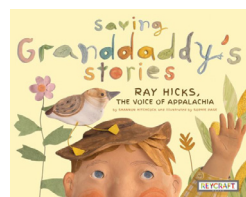
LEXILE: AD540L



### **Glass Slipper, Gold Sandal** By: Paul Fleischman (2007)

A retelling of the "Cinderella" story based on a variety of folk traditions, including elements from Mexico, Iran, Korea, Russia, Appalachia, and other countries and regions. **F** 32pgs

LEXILE: AD700L



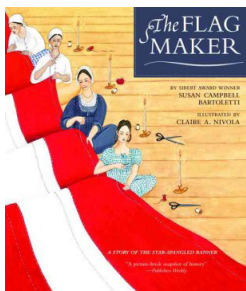
### **Saving Granddaddy's Stories** By: Shannon Hitchcock (2020)

As a young boy living in the Appalachian Mountains, Ray Hicks loved his grandfather's stories because he told them the mountain way. After his grandfather's death, Ray continued to tell these stories to anyone who would listen. Years later, his storytelling became so famous he was known as the Voice of Appalachia. **NF** 32pgs

LEXILE: N/A

# BUILDING KNOWLEDGE SOCIAL STUDIES TOPIC

## WAR OF 1812 AND THE AMERICAN FLAG



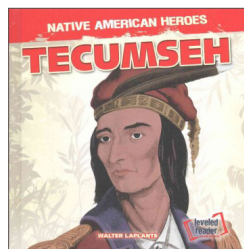
### The Flag Maker: A Story of the Star-Spangled Banner

By: Susan Campbell Bartoletti (2004)

Relates events of the 1814 Battle of Baltimore as seen through the eyes of twelve-year-old Caroline Pickersgill, who had worked with her family and their servants to sew the enormous flag which waved over Fort McHenry.

NF 32pgs

LEXILE: N/A  



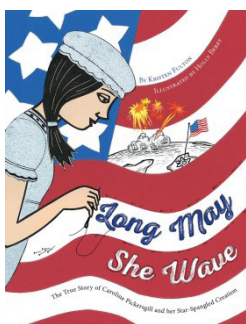
### Native American Heroes: Tecumseh

By: Walter LaPlante (2016)

Tecumseh played a role in much of early US history. He formed a confederacy of Native American tribes in the early 1800s, fought future president William Henry Harrison in the Battle of Tippecanoe, and then sided with the British in the War of 1812.

NF 24pgs



LEXILE: N/A 

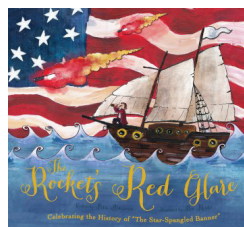


### Long May She Wave

By: Kristen Fulton (2017)

Caroline Pickersgill and her family proudly stitched the grand flag that gallantly whipped in the wind over Fort McHenry. But when the British attacked Baltimore on September 12, 1814, would those broad stripes and bright stars still wave strong? NF 40pgs

LEXILE: 770L  

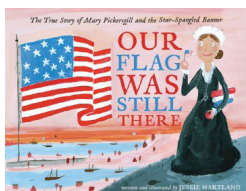


### The Rocket's Red Glare

By: Peter Alderman (2014)

Join Francis Scott Key on the choppy waters of the Chesapeake Bay in this stunning picture book that transports readers to one of the most important days in U.S. history. This picture book explains each line of the song and includes the full text of the anthem. NF 31pgs

LEXILE: 1000L 

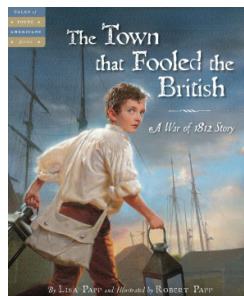


### Our Flag Was Still There

By: Jessie Hartland (2019)

The story of this giant flag begins in 1812 and stars a Major on the eve of battle, a seamstress and her mighty helpers, and a poet named Francis Scott Key. This isn't just the story of one flag. It's the story of "The Star Spangled-Banner," a poem that became our national anthem, too. NF 41pgs

LEXILE: 790L  



### The Town That Fooled the British

By: Lisa Papp (2011)

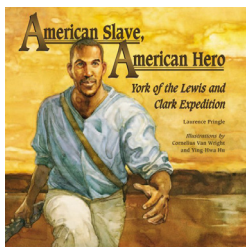
On August 10, 1813, with the British navy advancing up the Chesapeake Bay to destroy the shipyards in St. Michaels, Maryland, young Henry Middle thinks of a way to save his home town from British cannons.

F 32pgs

LEXILE: 660L 

# BUILDING KNOWLEDGE SOCIAL STUDIES TOPIC

## WESTWARD EXPANSION



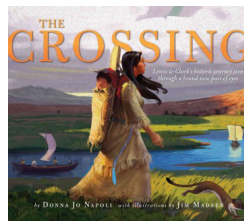
### American Slave, American Hero

By: Laurence P. Pringle (2006)

Presents an account of how William Clark's slave, York, helped during the Lewis and Clark Expedition, discussing the man's skills, strength, and intelligence.

**NF** 40pgs

**LEXILE:** 990L



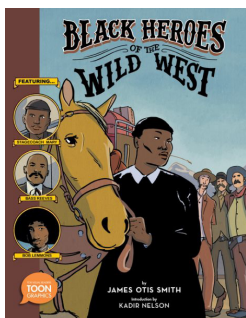
### The Crossing

By: Donna Jo Napoli (2011)

In 1805, Sacagawea, a woman of the Shoshoni tribe, helps Meriwether Lewis and William Clark find a passage to the West Coast, in this story told through the eyes of the baby boy on Sacagawea's back.

**F** 40pgs

**LEXILE:** AD690L



### Black Heroes of the Wild West

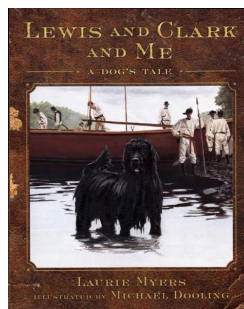
By: James Otis Smith (2020)

*Black Heroes of the Wild West* celebrates the extraordinary true tales of three black historical figures in the Old West: Mary 'Stagecoach' Fields, a cardplaying coach driver; Bass Reeves, the first black Deputy S Marshall west

of the Mississippi; and Bob Lemmons, a cowboy famous for his ability to tame mustangs.

**NF** 59pgs

**LEXILE:** N/A



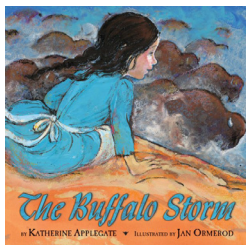
### Lewis and Clark and Me: A Dog's Tale

By: Laurie Myers (2002)

Seaman, Meriwether Lewis's Newfoundland dog, describes Lewis and Clark's expedition, which he accompanied from St. Louis to the Pacific Ocean.

**F** 64pgs

**LEXILE:** 470L



### The Buffalo Storm

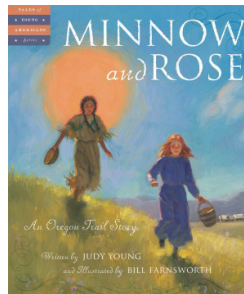
By: Katherine Applegate (2007)

Hallie isn't afraid of anything - that is, anything but storms, which she braves along with her grandmother, huddled beneath a special quilt. When her family

joins a wagon train headed west, leaving her grandmother - and everything Hallie has ever known - behind, Hallie knows she will have to be braver than she's ever been before.

**F** 32pgs

**LEXILE:** 880L



### Minnow and Rose: An Oregon Trail Story

By: Judy Young (2009)

Traveling west with her pioneer family in a wagon train, Rose meets Minnow, who lives in a Native American village along the banks of a river. And on the banks of that rushing river that divides one way of life from another, two

very different cultures come face-to-face, with life-changing results.

**F** 40pgs

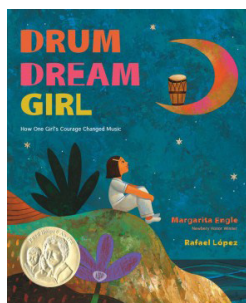
**LEXILE:** AD600L





# BUILDING KNOWLEDGE SOCIAL EMOTIONAL TOPIC

## SELF-AWARENESS



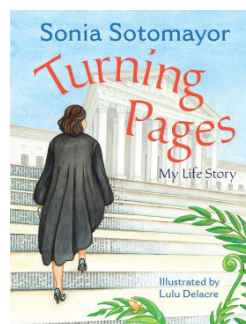
### Drum Dream Girl: How One Girl's Courage Changed Music

By: Margarita Engle (2015)

Follows a girl during the 1920s as she strives to become a drummer, despite being continually reminded that only boys play the drums, and that there has never been a female drummer in Cuba.

F 48pgs

LEXILE: NP



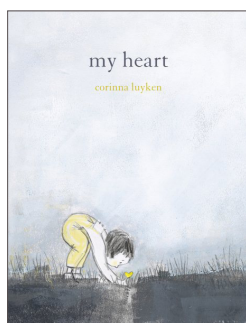
### Turning Pages: My Life Story

By: Sonia Sotomayor (2018)

As the first Latina Supreme Court Justice, Sonia Sotomayor has inspired young people around the world to reach for their dreams. But what inspired her? For young Sonia, the answer was books! They were her mirrors, her maps, her friends, and her teachers.

NF 32pgs

LEXILE: AD1000L



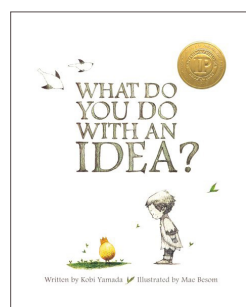
### My Heart

By: Corinna Luyken (2019)

Some days your heart is a puddle or a fence to keep the world out. But some days it is wide open to the love that surrounds you. *My Heart* empowers all readers to listen to the guide within in this ode to love and self-acceptance.

F 32pgs

LEXILE: AD320L



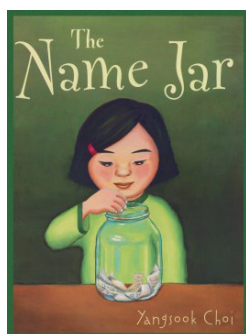
### What Do You Do With an Idea?

By: Kobi Yamada (2013)

This is the story of one brilliant idea and the child who helps to bring it into the world. It's a story for anyone, at any age, who's ever had an idea that seemed too big, too odd, too difficult.

F 40pgs

LEXILE: AD490L



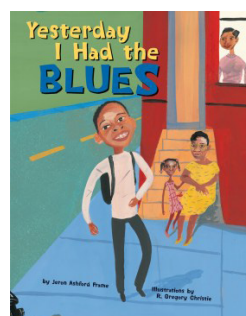
### The Name Jar

By: Yangsook Choi (2001)

Unhei's classmates help her decide on a name when she moves to the United States from Korea.

F 40pgs

LEXILE: 590L



### Yesterday I Had the Blues

By: Jeron Ashford Frame (2003)

A young boy ponders a variety of emotions and how different members of his family experience them, from his own blues to his father's grays and his grandmother's yellows.

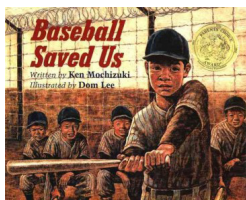
F 26pgs

LEXILE: AD630L



# BUILDING KNOWLEDGE SOCIAL EMOTIONAL TOPIC

## SELF-MANAGEMENT

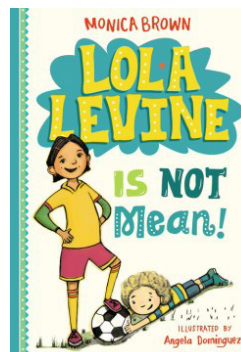


### Baseball Saved Us

By: Ken Mochizuki (1993)

A Japanese-American boy learns to play baseball when he and his family are forced to live in an internment camp during World War II. His ability to play helps him deal with prejudice after the war is over. **F** N/A

LEXILE: AD550L  



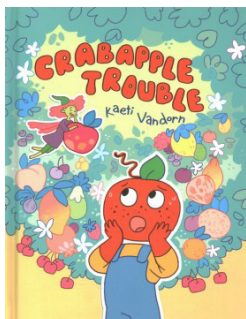
### Lola Levine is Not Mean

By: Monica Brown (2015)

Second grader Lola has a wonderful family, a great teacher, and the best friend ever, Josh, and they all help her feel better after she is teased and forbidden to play team sports at recess for having accidentally hurt classmate Juan during a soccer game.

**F** 96pgs

LEXILE: AD720L  

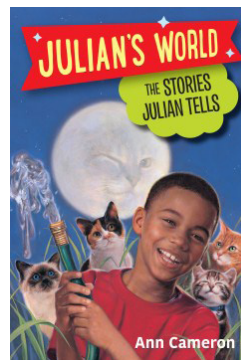


### Crabapple Trouble

By: Kaeti Vandorn (2020)

Callaway just wants to do a good job - but her worries are getting in the way! A fun adventure filled with an adorable cast of fruits and vegetables. **F** 163pgs

LEXILE: GN530L  

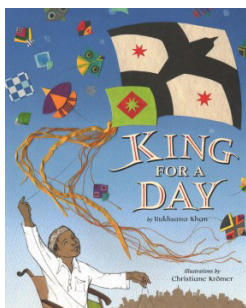


### The Stories Julian Tells

By: Ann Cameron (2006)

A collection of brief stories that relate the adventures of seven-year-old Julian's life including getting into trouble with his younger brother, Huey, planting a garden, what he did to try to grow taller, losing a tooth, and finding a new friend. **F** 71pgs

LEXILE: AD520L  



### King For a Day

By: Rukhsana Khan (2014)

Even though he is confined to a wheelchair, a Pakistani boy tries to capture the most kites during Basant, the annual spring kite festival, and become "king" for the day. **F** 32pgs

LEXILE: AD600L  



### Tomorrow Girl

By: Vikki Conley (2021)

Catch up with a girl called Tomorrow - you better be quick because she's always in a hurry! "You'll catch up with the next day if you keep rushing," says Tomorrow's mother. But when Tomorrow meets worrywart Yesterday and trips over thoughtful Today, her whole world begins to slow down. **F** 32pgs

LEXILE: N/A



# BUILDING KNOWLEDGE SOCIAL EMOTIONAL TOPIC

## SOCIAL AWARENESS



### The Breaking News

By: Sarah Lynne Reul (2018)

When bad news hits a young girl's community, the adults around her seem sad and preoccupied. Though things are dark and it seems there's nothing she can

do to change the heaviness around her, the girl decides to do many small good things in the hopes that it will lighten the mood and help her parents feel less sad and worried. **F** N/A

LEXILE: 470L



### Paper Son: The Inspiring Story of Tyrus Wong

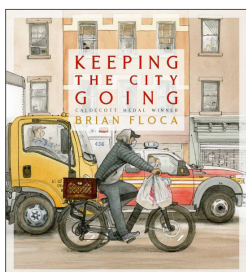
By: Julie Leung (2019)

Before he became an artist named Tyrus Wong, he was a boy named Wong Geng Yeo. He traveled across a vast ocean from China

to America with only a suitcase and a few papers. Once in America, Tyrus seized every opportunity to make art, and eventually was given the opportunity to create the iconic backgrounds of *Bambi*.

**NF** 34pgs

LEXILE: AD750L

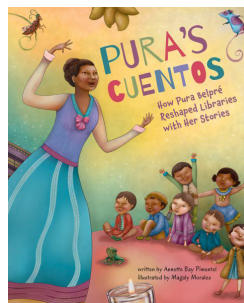


### Keeping the City Going

By: Brian Floca (2021)

The once hustling and bustling streets are empty. Well, almost empty. Around the city there are still people, some, out and about. These are the people keeping us safe. Keeping us healthy. Keeping our mail and our food delivered. Keeping our grocery stores stocked. Keeping the whole city going. **F** 40pgs

LEXILE: N/A

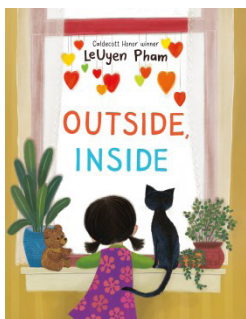


### Pura's Cuentos

By: Annette Bay Pimentel (2021)

When Pura grows up and moves from Puerto Rico to Harlem, she gets a job at the library, where she is surrounded by stories - but they're only in English. This lyrical, vibrant tribute to the amazing life and legacy of Pura Belpré, a lauded storyteller, librarian, and pioneer of bilingual storytimes. **NF** 40pgs

LEXILE: N/A



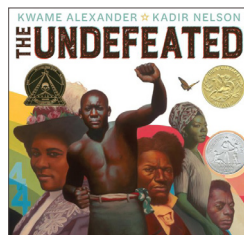
### Outside, Inside

By: LeUyen Pham (2021)

One day, everything changed. Everyone that was normally outside went inside, and people were forced to stay inside because of the COVID-19 pandemic. In order to protect those we loved, people stayed inside but continued to grow.

**F** 41pgs

LEXILE: N/A



### The Undeclared

By: Kwame Alexander (2019)

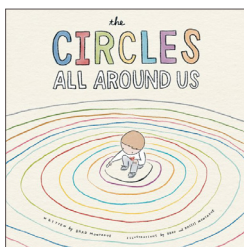
This book highlights the unspeakable trauma of slavery, the faith and fire of the Civil Rights Movement, and the grit, passion, and perseverance of some of the world's greatest heroes. **F** 32pgs

LEXILE: N/A



# BUILDING KNOWLEDGE SOCIAL EMOTIONAL TOPIC

## RELATIONSHIP SKILLS



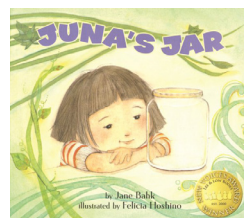
### The Circles All Around Us

By: Brad Montague (2021)

This is the story of a circle. When we're first born, our circle is very small, but as we grow and build relationships, our circle keeps getting bigger and bigger to include family, friends, neighbors, community, and beyond.

F 32pgs

LEXILE: N/A



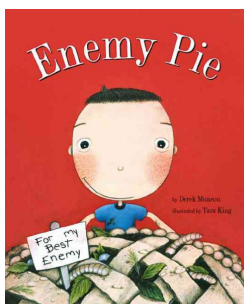
### Juna's Jar

By: Jane Bahk (2015)

After her best friend, Hector, moves away, Juna's brother Minh tries to make her feel better by finding things to put in her special kimchi jar, and each night, whatever is in the jar takes her on a magical journey in search of Hector.

F 32pgs

LEXILE: AD540L



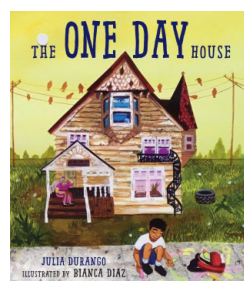
### Enemy Pie

By: Derek Munson (2000)

Hoping that the enemy pie which his father makes will help him get rid of his enemy, a little boy finds that instead it helps make a new friend.

F 36pgs

LEXILE: AD550L



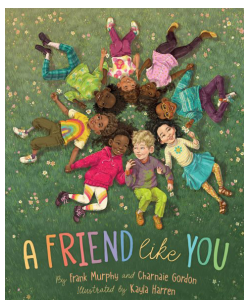
### The One Day House

By: Julia Durango (2020)

Wilson likes his elderly neighbor Gigi, and tells her all the things he wants to do to help her improve her run-down house-all the while secretly recruiting the members of his ethnically diverse community to pitch in and make her house safe, neat, and pretty.

F 32pgs

LEXILE: AD740L



### A Friend Like You

By: Frank Murphy (2021)

There's nothing in the world like a wonderful friend. Friends are there to laugh with you and ready with a hug when you need one. There are forever friends and brand new friends. Friends for adventures and friends for cozy days indoors.

Friends who are just like you and

friends who are nothing like you at all. In this book, celebrate ALL the marvelous ways to be a friend!

F 32pgs

LEXILE: N/A



### Paletero Man

By: Lucky Diaz (2021)

What's the best way to cool off on a hot summer day? Run quick and find Paletero Jose! Follow along with our narrator as he passes through his busy neighborhood in search of the Paletero Man. But when he finally catches up with him, our narrator's pockets are empty. It will take the help of the entire community to get the tasty treat now.

F 32pgs

LEXILE: N/A



# BUILDING KNOWLEDGE SOCIAL EMOTIONAL TOPIC

## RESPONSIBLE-DECISION MAKING SKILLS



### The Brilliant Deep: Rebuilding the World's Coral Reefs

By: Kate Messner (2018)

All it takes is one: one coral gamete to start a colony in the ocean, one person to make a difference in

the world, one idea to help us heal the earth. The ongoing conservation efforts to save and rebuild the world's coral reefs - with hammer and glue, and grafts of newly grown coral - are the living legacy of environmental scientist Ken Nedimyer, founder of the Coral Restoration Foundation. **NF** 48pgs

LEXILE: 830L

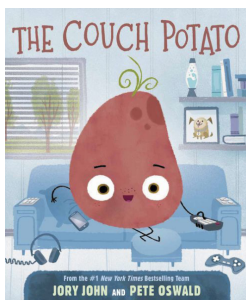


### The Last Straw: Kids vs. Plastic

By: Susan Hood (2021)

There's no doubt about it - plastic is in almost everything. From our phones and computers to our toys and utensils, plastic is everywhere. But the amount of plastic we throw away is hurting the health of our planet. **NF** 48pgs

LEXILE: N/A

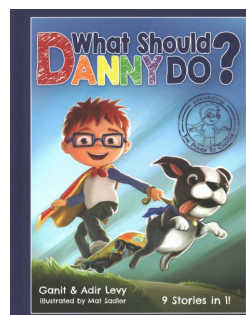


### The Couch Potato

By: Jory John (2020)

A lazy potato loves nothing more than spending the entire day on the couch. But when his power goes out one day, he has no choice but to get outside. After his day in the sunshine, he realizes that he should spend more time outside and less time on the couch. **F** 34pgs

LEXILE: AD550L

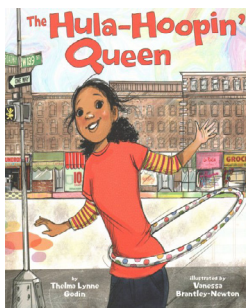


### What Should Danny Do?

By: Ganit and Adir Levy (2019)

Danny is a real-life superhero-in-training learning about his most important superpower of all, the Power to Choose. In this book, YOU decide how Danny's School Day will end by making choices that change the story. **F** 68pgs

LEXILE: N/A

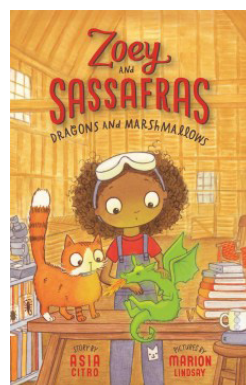


### The Hula-Hoopin' Queen

By: Thelma Godin (2014)

Kameeka yearns to continue her hula hooping competition with her rival, Jamara, rather than help prepare for Miz Adeline's birthday party, and "the itch" almost ruins the party before the girls learn who the real winner is. **F** 40pgs

LEXILE: AD600L



### Zoey and Sassafras: Dragons and Marshmallows

By: Asia Citro (2017)

Magical creatures are invisible to most humans, but not to Zoey, a bright African American girl, or her scientist mom. When Zoey's mom leaves for a conference, she entrusts this special responsibility to Zoey. When a sickly baby dragon appears, Zoey and her cat, Sassafras, nurse the dragon back to health. **F** 96pgs

LEXILE: 640L



# appendix a

## TEXT SETS

# CREATING TEXT SETS

## TEMPLATE

Text sets are collections of resources from different genre, media, and levels of reading difficulty that are designed to be supportive of the learning of readers with a range of experiences and interests. A text-set collection focuses on one concept or topic and can include includes multiple genres such as books, charts and maps, informational pamphlets, poetry and songs, photographs, non-fiction books, almanacs or encyclopedias.

**BOOK TITLE**

**AUTHOR**

**GRADE LEVEL**

**TOPIC**

**TEXT SET SUMMARY**

**MS-CCR Standards**

[www.mdek12.org/OAE/college-and-career-readiness-standards](http://www.mdek12.org/OAE/college-and-career-readiness-standards)

**Cross-Content Standards Connection**

**Anchor Text**

**Elements of the Unit/Lesson Plan**

How do the resources connect to the standards or to the lesson plan?

## Adult Intellectual Prep Resources

Include below any resources to support teacher intellectual preparation around this topic. What might we, as adults, need to know about this topic to meaningfully engage students?

## Elements of the Unit/Lesson Plan

How do the resources connect to the standards or to the lesson plan?

## Text Set Resources

Include between 4 and 7 resources per text set. Each text set should include at least one multimedia resource (e.g., interactive website, video, photographs). Consider how you will obtain each resource in the set to support students' working from the least complex texts to the most complex texts.

## Elements of the Unit/Lesson Plan

How do the resources connect to the standards or to the lesson plan?

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

## Additional Information on Each Resource in the Set

Consider carefully how non-dominant identities are highlighted throughout the text or resource (including representation of culture, race, gender, sexual orientation and/or abilities). Also consider whether those identities are explored in an authentic and relevant way, or whether this resource includes harmful stereotypes, generalizations, non-authentic stories, or discriminatory content.

1

Text or Resource Description	Resource Type	Genre	Lexile (if applicable) <sup>1</sup> On grade level? <sup>2</sup>	Available in bilingual format? <sup>3</sup>

2

Text or Resource Description	Resource Type	Genre	Lexile (if applicable) <sup>1</sup> On grade level? <sup>2</sup>	Available in bilingual format? <sup>3</sup>

3

Text or Resource Description	Resource Type	Genre	Lexile (if applicable) <sup>1</sup> On grade level? <sup>2</sup>	Available in bilingual format? <sup>3</sup>

4

Text or Resource Description	Resource Type	Genre	Lexile (if applicable) <sup>1</sup> On grade level? <sup>2</sup>	Available in bilingual format? <sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> If Lexile is unavailable, consider using a tool like (<https://hub.lexile.com/analyzer>) to get an estimated Lexile level.

<sup>2</sup> Text complexity quantitative bands ([https://achievethecore.org/content/upload/CCSS\\_Grade\\_Bands\\_and\\_Quantitative\\_Measures%20updated%202015.pdf](https://achievethecore.org/content/upload/CCSS_Grade_Bands_and_Quantitative_Measures%20updated%202015.pdf)) for college- and career-ready aligned work. Texts included in text sets can represent a range of below, on, and above grade-level texts.

<sup>3</sup> Note if resource is available in any other language(s), including closed captioning or translated version(s)



5

Text or Resource Description	Resource Type	Genre	Lexile (if applicable) <sup>1</sup> On grade level? <sup>2</sup>	Available in bilingual format? <sup>3</sup>

6

Text or Resource Description	Resource Type	Genre	Lexile (if applicable) <sup>1</sup> On grade level? <sup>2</sup>	Available in bilingual format? <sup>3</sup>

7

Text or Resource Description	Resource Type	Genre	Lexile (if applicable) <sup>1</sup> On grade level? <sup>2</sup>	Available in bilingual format? <sup>3</sup>

### Activities to Capture Knowledge and Vocabulary Growth Throughout the Set

### Sample Writing Closing Tasks



# **appendix b**

## **READING STRATEGIES**

## READING STRATEGIES TO CONSIDER



### PICTURE WALK (Grades K - 3)

[www.greatschools.org/gk/videos/picture-walk-video-2](http://www.greatschools.org/gk/videos/picture-walk-video-2)

A picture walk is a pre-reading strategy that provides students with an entry point into the text. By first experiencing and discussing the text's images, students are able to develop their own wonderings and expectations about what is to come.

ELA / Literacy Lessons > Close Reading Model Lessons

### Close Reading Model Lessons

These close reading lessons all focus on texts of appropriate complexity for the grade. The questions and tasks included are meant to serve as examples of the kinds of questions and tasks that can be built into lessons to foster the skills necessary for students to engage deeply with text and improve reading comprehension. The resources below explain what makes a text complex and how to identify and create text-dependent and text-specific questions to promote student understanding.

### CLOSE READING (Grades K - 5)

[achievethecore.org/page/2734/close-reading-model-lessons](http://achievethecore.org/page/2734/close-reading-model-lessons)

Close Reading is a method for tackling complex text that allows for multiple exposures with a different focus during each read. The goal of this strategy is to help students dig deeply into the text's rich vocabulary and complex meaning while making connections to the text.

### Wonder Novel Study

Innovation in Teaching Competition | Innovation in Teaching: Unit Plans

During this unit, students use the novel *Wonder*, fiction and nonfiction texts, and other media to explore literary concepts, including point of view, character development, figurative language, setting, plot, mood, and tone. Students also practice analyzing literary elements, making predictions, and supporting their thoughts with evidence from the text. At the end of the unit, students apply their knowledge of these literary elements to create a document exploring the themes of bullying, peer pressure and fitting in.

### NOVEL STUDY (Grades 2 - 5)

[www.gpb.org/innovation-in-teaching/wonder-novel-study](http://www.gpb.org/innovation-in-teaching/wonder-novel-study)

A novel study allows students to deeply interact with the language and meaning of a chapter book while giving them the opportunity to engage with the text, their peers, and their world.



### STRONG READERS, STRONG LEADERS (Grades PK - 5)

[strongreadersms.com](http://strongreadersms.com)

The Strong Readers, Strong Leaders website introduces families to grade-level resources and activities that help children become strong readers and leaders.

# **appendix c**

## **READING ASSIGNMENT APPROVAL FORMS**

# READING ASSIGNMENT

## BOOK APPROVAL LETTER

Dear Families/Guardians,

As part of the \_\_\_\_\_ [school name] \_\_\_\_\_ [class], each student is expected to read or listen to a book related to \_\_\_\_\_ [curriculum unit] from a list of pre-approved titles. They are responsible for reading or listening to the book and completing a series of assignments related to it for \_\_\_\_\_ [time period], which includes \_\_\_\_\_ [types of assignments/assessments].

- ☐ **Teacher Assigned Book:** The primary objective of this assignment is to allow students to choose and read or listen to books that interest them that connect to the curriculum unit. We want your student to feel as though he or she is reading or listening to material that is interesting to him or her but is also challenging. However, because each parent/guardian feels differently about what is appropriate for their own child, \_\_\_\_\_ [school name] requires all students to have their book approved first by you. Please see the attached document for a brief summary of each novel.
  
- ☐ **Student Selected Book (from a list of pre-approved titles):** The primary objective of this assignment is to allow students to exercise choice and read or listen to books that interest them while connecting to the curriculum unit. We want your student to feel as though he or she is reading or listening to material that is interesting to him or her but is also challenging. However, because each parent/guardian feels differently about what is appropriate for their own child, \_\_\_\_\_ [school name] requires all students to have their book approved first by you. Please see the attached document for a brief summary of each novel.

When you are approving your student's reading, please look it over to ensure that you feel the content of the novel is appropriate for your student. If you have objections, have your student choose another book; if the book was assigned, discuss the title with the teacher. Please have a discussion with your student about what types of books and topics you feel are appropriate and instruct them not to select books that contain topics that you would not want them to read or hear. Once you have approved the book, please sign the attached book approval form.

If you have any questions about this project, please feel free to contact \_\_\_\_\_ [teacher's name] at \_\_\_\_\_ [teacher's contact information].

# READING ASSIGNMENT

## BOOK APPROVAL FORM

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

Book Title \_\_\_\_\_

Author \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Pages: \_\_\_\_\_

I, \_\_\_\_\_, am aware that my child will be reading or listening to the above named book in connection with the curriculum unit during this nine weeks.

I understand that this book was

- ☐ assigned by the teacher and that by signing this form, I give my student permission to read or listen to this book. I understand I am approving the content of this book, and the teacher will approve the book for level appropriateness.
- ☐ selected by my child and that by signing this form, I give my student permission to read or listen to this book. I understand I am approving the content of this book, and the teacher will approve the book for level appropriateness.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Teacher Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Approval Date

# **appendix d**

## **EVALUATION TOOLS**

# BUILDING KNOWLEDGE BOOK LIST EVALUATION

This evaluation tool will help teachers and librarians with their final selections for diversity, equity, and high-quality books for instruction and for student-choice reading.

BOOK TITLE

AUTHOR

GRADE LEVEL

THEME/TOPIC

1

**Rate the book on its publication date.**

*Use the scale below.*

- 1: 40 years or older
- 2: 30-39 years old
- 3: 20-29 years old
- 4: 10-19 years old
- 5: 10 years or newer

2

**Rate the book based on the appropriateness of the Lexile Level.**

*Use the scale below.*

- 1: Too easy/hard to read for grade level
- 2: Below grade level
- 3: At grade level
- 4: Above grade level

3

**Rate the book based on the additional factors.**

*Use the scale below.*

- Additional factors: Award Winner, Bilingual Format, Graphic Novel Format, and Digital Format*
- 1: One additional factor
  - 2: Two additional factors
  - 3: Three additional factors
  - 4: Four additional factors

4

**The book celebrates diverse characters and/or written by an author of color.***Use the scale below.*

- 1: Not diverse in terms of cultural, race, gender, sexual orientation, disability OR contains diversity but includes harmful stereotypes, generalizations, not-authentic stories, or discriminatory content about a group of people.
- 2: Contains some diversity but may misrepresent or generalize a group of people.
- 3: Explores diversity in an authentic and relevant way.
- 4: Truly explores and celebrates the diversity.

5

**The book is directly connected to other Social Emotional MS CCR Standards.***Use the scale below.*

- 1: Vaguely connected to the Social Emotional MS CCR standards.
- 2: Closely connected to at least one Social Emotional MS CCR standard.
- 3: Closely connected to multiple Social Emotional MS CCR standards.

6

**The book is directly connected to English Language Arts MS College- and Career-Readiness (MS CCR) Standards.***Use the scale below.*

- 1: Vaguely connected to the English MS CCR standards.
- 2: Closely connected to at least one English MS CCR standard.
- 3: Closely connected to multiple English MS CCR standards.

7

**The book is directly connected to other MS CCR Standards.***Use the scale below.*

- 1: Vaguely connected to other MS CCR standards.
- 2: Closely connected to at least one other MS CCR standard.
- 3: Closely connected to multiple other MS CCR standards.

**TOTAL**

**Write at least two sentences why the book should be added to the classroom or school libraries and/or to instruction.**



# SCHOOL/CLASSROOM LIBRARY COLLECTION QUESTIONNAIRE

Use the following questions as a guide to analyze the school or classroom library and determine where there are strengths and where there are gaps in the collection.

1	<b>The library contains multiple books that include...</b>	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
	Non-human, anthropomorphic main characters (e.g., talking animals, talking trucks, talking vegetables, imaginary or science fiction creatures, etc.)					

2	<b>The library contains numerous books that include...</b>	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
	Main characters of color or different nationality/ethnicity					
	Main characters with different types of gender identity and gender expression					
	Feature a range of family structures and family configurations					
	Explore different socioeconomic backgrounds					
	Explore religious diversity					
	Main characters with disabilities					

3	<b>The library contains numerous books that...</b>	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
	Are written or illustrated by a person of color or of different nationality/ethnicity					
	Are set in a different country or geographic setting (urban, rural, suburban) during the present time					
	Teach about immigration to the United States beyond the Ellis Island-narrative					
	Teach about Black/African-American contributions to the United States beyond the Civil Rights Movement					
	Feature diversity throughout the year, not just in heritage and observance months (e.g., Black History Month, Native American History Month)					

4	The majority of books featuring people of color or different nationality/ethnicity people...	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
	Are only about issues of race, prejudice, or discrimination					
	Are only culturally specific (e.g., flags, food, festivals)					
	Are only culturally neutral or contain incidental diversity					
	Are non-authentic stories about a group of people					
	Contain harmful stereotypes or discriminatory content about a group of people					
	Contain inaccurate/outdated information or makes generalizations about a group of people					

5	The library contains multiple books that support...	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
	MS-CCR English Standards					
	MS-CCR Social Studies Standards					
	MS-CCR Science Standards					
	MS-CCR Social Emotional Standards					

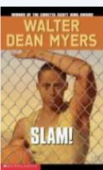
6	The library reflects...	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
	The diversity of my students and the community in which we live (e.g., gender, race, family structure, language, culture, socioeconomic background, etc.)					

**RESOURCE** [https://www.leeandlow.com/uploads/loaded\\_document/408/Classroom-Library-Questionnaire\\_FINAL.pdf](https://www.leeandlow.com/uploads/loaded_document/408/Classroom-Library-Questionnaire_FINAL.pdf)

# **appendix e**

## **RESOURCES TO SUPPORT STUDENT READING**

# BOOK INFORMATION AND SUPPORT MATERIALS



**Slam!**

Author(s): [Walter Dean Myers](#) | Age Range: N/A | Copyright: 1996  
Language: English | Page Count: 272 | ISBN: 9780590000000

Greg "Slam" Harris can do it all on the basketball court, and he knows it's all the way to the top. But his failing grades and volatile temper are before him. Slam's going one-on-one with his future, and it's a showdown he can't win.

Categories: [Hobbies, Sports & Outdoors](#), [Real Life](#), [Fiction, Non-fiction & Poetry](#)


Tags: Personal and social issues: racism

Vocabulary: Find a Book selects up to 10 words from the text that have been identified by users to help inform instruction.

Indicators: ducky, nipper, refs, stoops, edit, fouls, busting, ducky

• **Lexile: Find a Book** (Grades K - 12)  
[hub.lexile.com/find-a-book/search](http://hub.lexile.com/find-a-book/search)

Search for books based on Lexile codes, which provides information on the book's intended usage, or find books that are easy to decode or have a lot of patterning to help beginning readers.



**The year the maps changed (Apr 2020),**

Author: [Binks, Danielle](#)

Ages 9-12 | Fiction

**Description:**  
'I was eleven when everything started and twelve by the end. But further than that.' Sorrento, Victoria - 1999 Fred's family is a mess, father, Luca, ever since. But now Pop's had to go away; Luca's girl are having a baby of their own. More and more it feels like a land spinning out of control, a crisis from the other side of it comes crashing on an isolated headland not far from Sorrento, their fate by an extraordinary year that will change them all. A middle-grade coming of age story.

**Book Appeal Terms:** [Definition of Appeal Terms](#)

**Genre:** Australian fiction; Coming-of-age stories; Realistic fiction

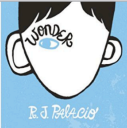
**Themes:** Coping with death; Immigrant experiences; Meet the fa

**Tone:** Angst-filled

Popularity: ★☆☆☆☆

• **Novelist: MAGNOLIA** (Grades K - 12)  
[magnolia.msstate.edu](http://magnolia.msstate.edu)

A complete suite of book-finding tools for librarians, teachers, and readers. Database contains book lists, curricular connections, and author read-alikes. See your school librarian for passcode.



**Wonder**

Written by [R.J. Palacio](#)

The story of August "Auggie" Pullman, who was born with a rare facial deformity called Treacher Collins Syndrome and a cleft palate. After being home-schooled for years, he begins school at Beecher Prep. He finds friends in Jack, Charlotte, and Summer, but he must learn to deal with bullying, betrayal, and misunderstandings.

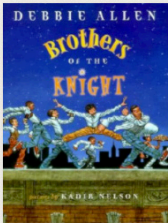
**Support Materials**

- Wonder: Word Search**  
After reading Wonder by R. J. Palacio use this printable and interactive Word Search puzzle to...
- Wonder: Crisis Cross**  
After reading Wonder by R. J. Palacio use this printable and interactive Crisis Cross puzzle to...
- Wonder**  
Prepared by Susan Goye, this educator's guide to Wonder by R. J. Palacio provides cross-curricular...
- Wonder: Book Trailer**  
Book trailer video of Wonder. Created by Random...

Age Range: 8 - 12 years  
Genre: Fiction  
Copyright Year: 2012  
Page Count: 320  
Publisher: Knopf Books for Young Readers  
Grade Level: 3rd - 7th  
ISBN: 9780375869020

• **Reading is Fundamental Educator Resources** (Grades K - 12)  
[www.rif.org/literacy-central/educators](http://www.rif.org/literacy-central/educators)

Online support materials aligned to hundreds of children's book titles and much more.



**Book Descriptions**

for [Brothers of the Knight](#) by Debbie Allen

**From Cooperative Child**

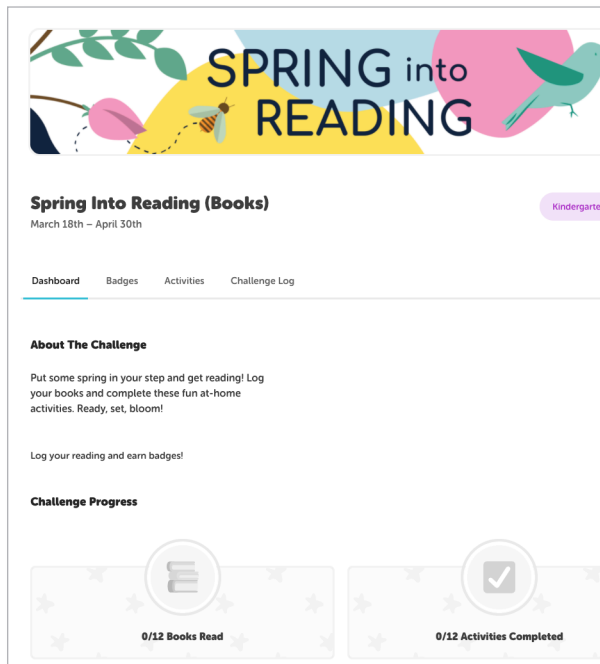
A funny modern retelling of "The Twelve Days of Christmas" as a stage version that was performed at Kennedy Center about the twelve boisterous sons of the Reverend and then blame the wear and tear on their shrewish housekeepers are unable to keep up with the more than a match for the twelve high-stepping detail and whimsy to an appealing urban folk

Add to Reading List | Share this Page

• **Teaching Books** (Grades K - 12)  
[www.teachingbooks.net](http://www.teachingbooks.net)

An online database that can be used by teachers, students, librarians, and families to explore children's books and young adult literature and their authors.

# READING TRACKERS



## • Beanbright Reading Tracker

(Grades K - 12)

[www.beanbright.com](http://www.beanbright.com)

Beanbright helps facilitate reading challenges and gain more data on students' free-choice reading.

READING GROUP			
Mr. Bellew's Book Club			
Name	Grade	At Grade Level?	Student Reading Proficiency
Mason A	7th	At Level	6th grade AT LEVEL 7TH
Grady B	5th	Above	4th grade ABOVE 5TH
Wendi C	2nd	At Level	1st grade AT LEVEL 2ND
Sally D	4th	Below	3rd grade BELOW 4TH
Vijay E	6th	Below	5th grade BELOW 6TH
Jerry F	Pre-K	At Level	AT LEVEL

## • Reading is Fundamental Reading Tracker (Grades K - 8)

[www.rif.org/literacy-central/literacy-tracker](http://www.rif.org/literacy-central/literacy-tracker)

Literacy Tracker Tool allows teachers to check in on students' reading progress throughout the year and helps students find "just right" books to develop their skills.

## EDUCATOR AND SCHOOL LIBRARIAN RESOURCES

### **Día: Children's Book Day** (Grades K - 8)

[dia.ala.org](http://dia.ala.org)

Día is a nationally recognized initiative that emphasizes the importance of literacy for all children from all backgrounds. It is a daily commitment to linking children and their families to diverse books, languages and cultures.

### **First Book: The Stories for All Project** (Grades K - 12)

[firstbook.org/the-need/the-stories-for-all-project](http://firstbook.org/the-need/the-stories-for-all-project)

The Stories for All Project curates new, relevant, high-quality books representing diverse characters, voices, and life circumstances and makes them available and affordable to educators supporting kids in need.

### **Lexile by Chapter Guides**

(Grades K - 12)

[lexile.com/educators/tools-to-support-reading-at-school/tools-to-help-teach-a-book/lexile-chapter-guides](http://lexile.com/educators/tools-to-support-reading-at-school/tools-to-help-teach-a-book/lexile-chapter-guides)

Books vary in text complexity, chapters within each book can vary as well. When teaching a book in class, Lexile by Chapter Guides can help better plan instruction.

### **Lexile PowerV Vocabulary Tool**

(Grades 5 – 12)

[lexile.com/educators/tools-to-support-reading-at-school/tools-to-help-teach-a-book/lexile-powerv-vocabulary-tool](http://lexile.com/educators/tools-to-support-reading-at-school/tools-to-help-teach-a-book/lexile-powerv-vocabulary-tool)

More than 125,000 books in Find a Book include a vocabulary tool that identifies up to 10 challenging words that are important for students to know.

### **Match Fishtank** (Grades K - 12)

[www.matchfishtank.org/curriculum/english-language-arts](http://www.matchfishtank.org/curriculum/english-language-arts)

Through this site, teachers can explore and draw from full courses or individual units, lessons, or assessments. All the resources support rigorous, standards-driven instruction to support vocabulary, writing, and reading skills.



## **Novel Engineering** (Grades K - 8)

[www.novelengineering.org](http://www.novelengineering.org)

Students use existing classroom literature – stories, novels, and expository texts – as the basis for engineering design challenges that help them identify problems, design realistic solutions, and engage in the Engineering Design Process while reinforcing their literacy skills.

## **Read Across America** (Grades K - 12)

[www.nea.org/professional-excellence/student-engagement/read-across-america](http://www.nea.org/professional-excellence/student-engagement/read-across-america)

Launched in 1998 by the National Education Association (NEA) and guided by a committee of educators. This year-round program focuses on motivating children and teens to read through events, partnerships, and reading resources that are about everyone, for everyone.

## **Reading is Fundamental** (Grades K - 12)

[www.rif.org/literacy-central](http://www.rif.org/literacy-central)

The digital library hosts over 10,000 resources directly tied to the books teachers, caregivers and community partners turn to everyday. Organize all of your book resources in one place, create and share book lists, find helpful reading tips and strategies and track student reading progress.