

# LEXILES IN THE CLASSROOM



- *“Lexiles” defined*

The Lexile Framework® for Reading is a scientific approach to measuring text difficulty and reading ability, putting both texts and readers on the same scale to accurately match readers to texts. A Lexile® measure for either texts or readers is a simple number followed by an “L” (e.g., “850L”). The Lexile scale ranges from 200L for a beginning reader to 1700L for advanced texts. Both the Lexile measure and Lexile scale are integral parts of the Lexile Framework.

The Lexile Framework is not an instructional program any more than a thermometer is a medical treatment. But just as a thermometer can be useful in managing medical care, Lexiles can be useful in managing instructional programs and resources.

- *How Lexiles work*

All major standardized reading tests and many popular instructional reading programs can report student reading scores in Lexiles. The Lexile measure then allows you to match those readers with books or articles at the same Lexile measure with the confidence that students will find the text appropriately challenging. The Lexile measure can be used both to promote reading progress and to assign the right level of reading materials in other curriculum areas. Lexiles are flexible enough to be used as part of any type of reading program.

- *Manage your students’ reading comprehension*

Lexile measures allow you to manage comprehension. Matching a reader’s Lexile measure to a text with the same Lexile measure leads to an expected 75-percent comprehension rate – not too difficult to be frustrating, but difficult enough to be challenging and to encourage reading progress. You can further adjust anticipated comprehension simply by choosing more or less difficult texts within a student’s Lexile range, which spans 50L above and 100L below their Lexile measure.

- *Track progress on a day-to-day basis*

Lexile measures tie day-to-day work in the classroom to critical high-stakes tests, which also report scores in Lexiles. This commonality allows you to provide interim assessment and feedback while using the same consistent measurement. Lexiles help you set measurable goals, monitor and evaluate reading programs, and easily track progress without additional testing.

- *Apply Lexiles across the curriculum*

Over 450 publishers Lexile their titles, enabling you to link all the different components of the curriculum. With a student’s Lexile measure, you can connect him or her to tens of thousands of books (available at [www.Lexile.com](http://www.Lexile.com)) and tens of millions of newspaper and magazine articles (through popular periodical databases) that also have Lexile measures.

## ● *Easily communicated to families*

The Lexile Framework provides a clear, nonjudgmental way of communicating a student's reading abilities to parents. It helps you generate reading lists that help parents guide their children to appropriately challenging reading materials. Lexiles can also be used to promote summer reading, and to select books that will provide more easily understood background information for homework assignments. When standards and scores are reported in Lexiles, families can be provided with examples of student goals or achievements by converting the Lexile measure into a range of familiar texts for outside reading.

## ● *Using Lexiles in your classroom*

- Develop individualized reading lists that are tailored to provide appropriately challenging reading.
- Enhance thematic teaching by building a bank of titles at varying levels that not only support the theme, but provide a way for all students to successfully participate in the theme.
- Use as an additional organizing tool when sequencing materials. For example, you might be choosing one book a month for use as a read-aloud throughout the school year. In addition to considering the topic, you could increase the difficulty of the books throughout the year. This approach is also useful if you are utilizing a core program or textbook that is set up in anthology format. (You may find that you need to rearrange the order of the anthologies to best meet your students' needs.)
- Develop a reading folder that goes home with students and comes back for weekly review. The folder can contain a reading list of books within the student's Lexile range, reports of recent assessments and a parent form to record reading that occurs at home.
- Choose texts lower in the student's Lexile range when factors make the reading situation more challenging, threatening or unfamiliar. Select texts at or above the student's range to stimulate growth when a topic is of extreme interest to a student, or when you will be adding additional support such as background teaching or discussion.
- Use the free Lexile Book Database (at [www.Lexile.com](http://www.Lexile.com)) to support book selection and create booklists within a student's Lexile range to help the student make informed choices when selecting texts.
- Use the free Lexile Calculator (at [www.Lexile.com](http://www.Lexile.com)) to gauge expected reading comprehension at different Lexile measures for readers and texts.

## ● *The Lexile Framework for Reading*

The Lexile Framework is an indispensable part of any reading program. Lexile measures give educators the confidence to choose materials that will improve student reading skills and take the guesswork out of matching readers with appropriate texts. If you know a student's Lexile measure, you can tell with a great deal of accuracy which books are appropriate for their reading ability.

The Lexile Framework is supported by many products, tools and services. For a complete list, see the "Lexiles in Education" fact sheet. To find out more about The Lexile Framework for Reading, visit the Lexile Web site at [www.Lexile.com](http://www.Lexile.com).

Lexile: Matching readers to text



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