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Office of Secondary Education  
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# acknowledgments:

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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

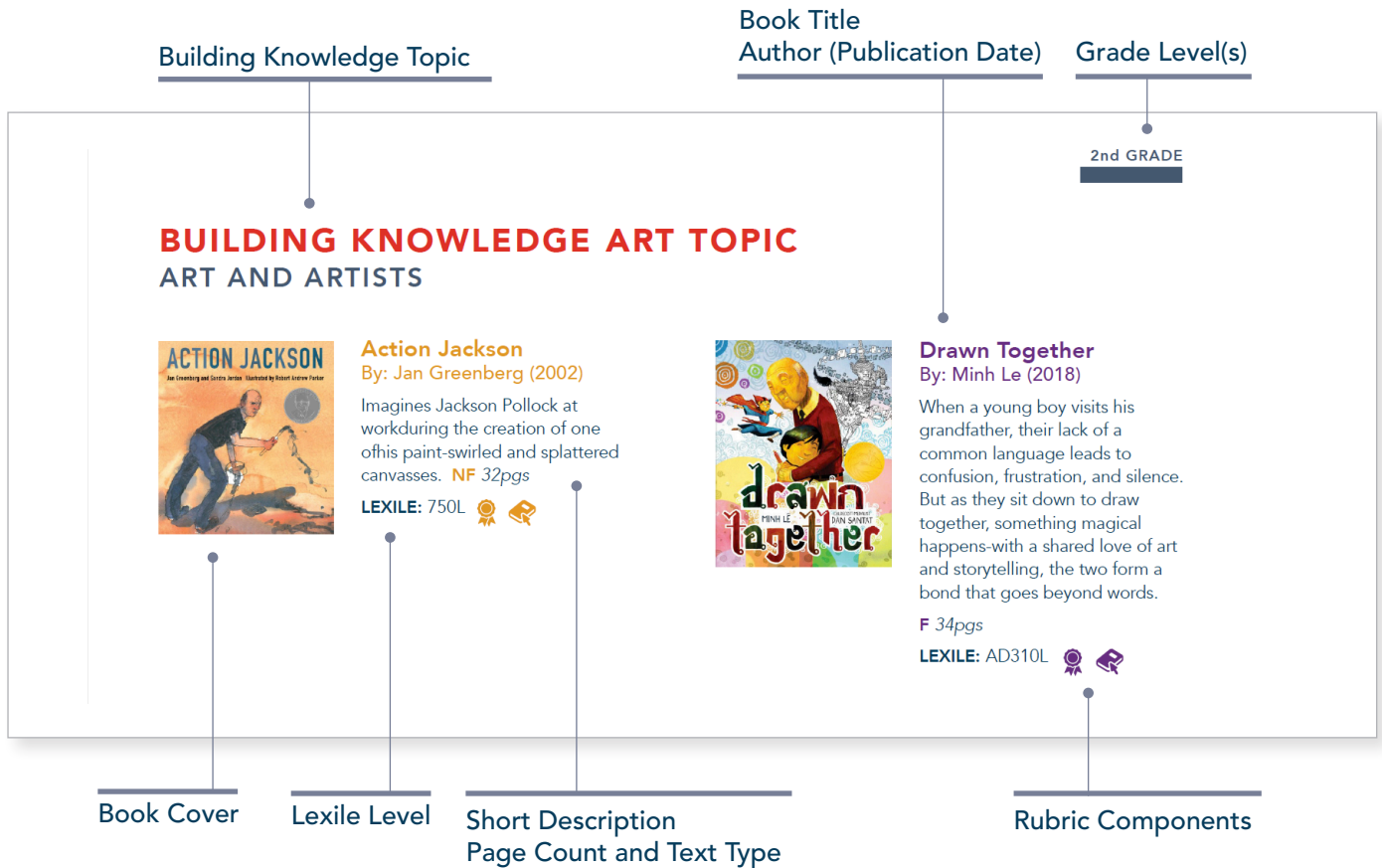
Some books have no written text, therefore they have no assigned Lexile value. However, wordless picture books and picture books serve an important purpose in the Literacy classroom and for all learners.

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



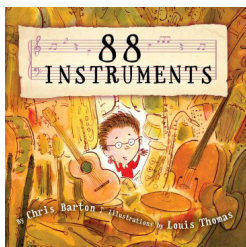
K-1st GRADE

# book lists:



## BUILDING KNOWLEDGE

### MY FIVE SENSES



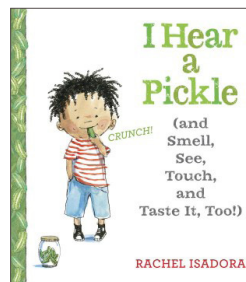
#### 88 Instruments

By: Chris Barton (2016)

A boy who loves to make noise gets to pick only one instrument (at his parents urging) in a music store, but there is too much to choose from There's triangles and sousaphones There's guitars and

harpisichords Baggpipes and cellos and trombones How can he find the one that is just right for him out of all those options? **F** 28pgs

LEXILE: AD410L

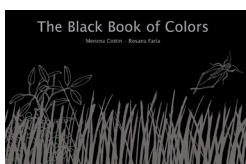


#### I Hear a Pickle

By: Rachel Isadora (2016)

Join a group of children as they experience a variety of sounds, smells, sights, textures, and tastes, including a pickle that is seen, heard, smelled, touched, and tasted. **F** 32pgs

LEXILE: 240L



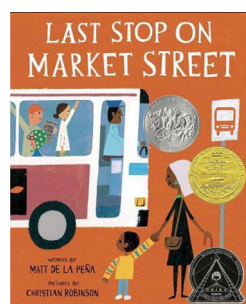
#### The Black Book of Colors

By: Menena Cottin (2008)

Living with the use of one's eyes can make imagining

blindness difficult, but this innovative title invites readers to imagine living without sight through remarkable illustrations done with raised lines and descriptions of colors based on imagery. Braille letters accompany the illustrations and a full Braille alphabet offers sighted readers help reading along with their fingers. **NF** 24pgs

LEXILE: 520L



#### Last Stop on Market Street

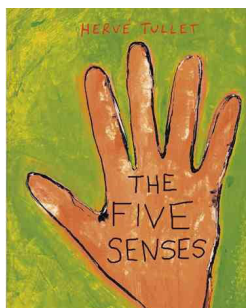
By: Matt de la Peña (2015)

On the bus with his grandma after church CJ wonders why they don't own a car, why he doesn't have an iPod, and how come they always have to get off in the dirty part of town? Each question is met with an encouraging answer from

grandma, who helps him see the beauty - and fun - in their routine and the world around them.

**F** 32pgs

LEXILE: AD610L



#### The Five Senses

By: Herve Tullet (2004)

Seeing, hearing, taste, touch and smell are the ways children explore their world. This book is a kaleidoscope of color and quirky design ideas, including a selection of noses, a distorting mirror, a Braille alphabet and a page of forks specially adapted for eating peas. **NF** 144pgs

LEXILE: N/A



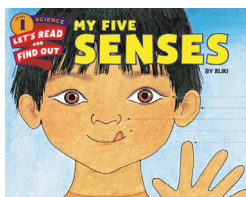
#### Leila in Saffron

By: Rukhsanna Guidroz (2018)

Follow Leila's journey as she uses her senses of sight, smell, taste, touch to seek out the characteristics that make up her unique identity, and finds reasons to feel proud of herself, just as she is. **F** 32pgs

LEXILE: 550L



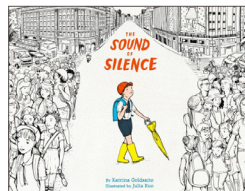


## My Five Senses

By: Aiki (2015)

A simple presentation of the five senses, demonstrating some ways we use them. **NF** 31pgs

LEXILE: AD590L



## The Sound of Silence

By: Katrina Goldsaito (2016)

Yoshio delights in the sounds of Tokyo, but when a musician tells him that her favorite sound is ma, the Japanese word for silence, Yoshio sets out to hear this sound for himself among the hustle and bustle of the city. Includes information on the Japanese concept of ma. **F** 32pgs

LEXILE: AD700L



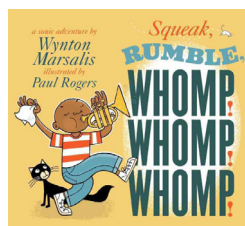
## The Noisy Paint Box

By: Barb Rosenstock (2014)

Describes how Wassily Kandinsky's creative life was profoundly shaped by a neurological condition called synesthesia which caused him to experience colors as sounds and sounds as colors.

**NF** 34pgs

LEXILE: AD630L

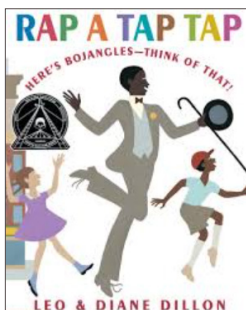


## Squeak, Rumble, Whomp! Whomp! Whomp!

By: Wynton Marsalis (2012)

World-renowned jazz musician and composer Wynton Marsalis take readers on a rollicking, clanging, clapping tour through the many sounds that fill a neighborhood. **F** 34pgs

LEXILE: AD460L

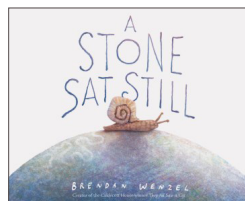


## Rap a Tap Tap: Here's Bonjangles

By: Leo Dillon (2002)

This book describes the life of a ground-breaking African-American tap dancer. People said he "talked with his feet," and in these graceful paintings of old New York, he dances from page to page to the tune of a toetapping rhyme. **F** 32pgs

LEXILE: AD360L



## A Stone Sat Still

By: Brendan Wenzel (2019)

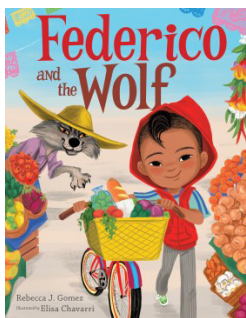
Told in rhyming verse, a stone is considered from a variety of environmental and emotional perspectives, as it sits where it is, surrounded by grass, dirt, and water, an unchanging certainty in the world. **F** 32pgs

LEXILE: NP



## BUILDING KNOWLEDGE

### NURSERY RHYMES AND FAIRYTALES

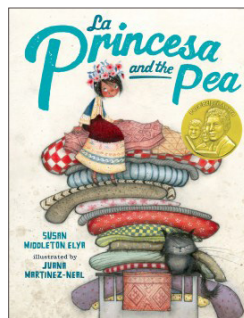


#### Federico and the Wolf

By: Rebecca J. Gomez (2020)

A modern retelling of Little Red Riding Hood in which Federico rides his bicycle to the market for Abuelo's groceries, then stands up to a hungry wolf. Includes a recipe for pico de gallo and glossary of Spanish terms. **F** 32pgs

LEXILE: AD600L  






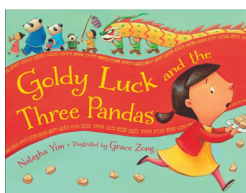
#### La Princesa and the Pea

By: Susan M. Elya (2017)

A rhyming twist on a classic fairy tale in which a queen places a pea under a young lady's mattress to see if she is truly a princess.

**F** 32pgs

LEXILE: AD530L   



#### Goldy Luck and the Three Pandas

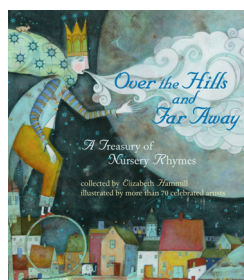
By: Natasha Yim (2014)

It's Chinese New Year, and Goldy Luck's mother wants her to take a plate of turnip cakes to the

neighbors. The Chans aren't home, but that doesn't stop Goldy from trying out their rice porridge, their chairs, and their beds - with disastrous results.

**F** 32pgs

LEXILE: 560L  

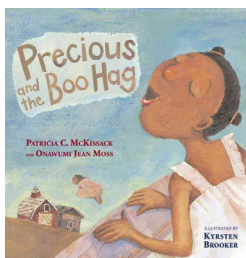


#### Over the Hills and Far Away: A Treasury of Nursery Rhymes

Published By: Candlewick Press (2015)

A stunning collection of rhymes from countries all over the English-speaking world. The collection contains nursery rhymes from First Nation, Inuit and Maori cultures. **F** 160pgs

LEXILE: N/A 



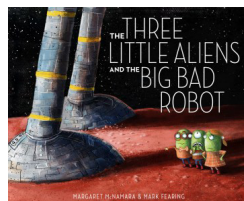
#### Precious and the Boo Hag

By: Pat McKissack (2005)

Home alone with a stomachache while the family works in the fields, a young girl faces up to the horrifying Boo Hag that her brother warned her about.

**F** 32pgs

LEXILE: AD640L 



#### The Three Little Aliens and the Big Bag Robot

By: Margaret McNamara (2011)

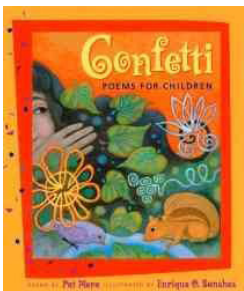
Three aliens set off to find a new planet for themselves but soon Bork and Gork have forgotten all of their mother's good advice and only Nklxwycz builds a home safe enough to withstand the Big Bad Robot in this story reminiscent of "The Three Little Pigs." **F** 32pgs

LEXILE: AD590L 



# BUILDING KNOWLEDGE

## POETRY

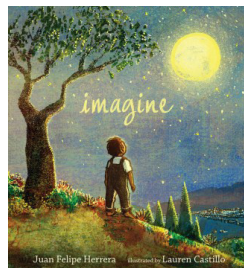


### Confetti: Poems for Children

By: Pat Mora (1996)

Poems celebrating the beauty of the Southwest as experienced by a Mexican American girl who lives there. **F** 32pgs

LEXILE: NP  

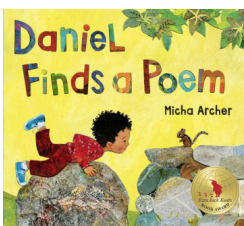


### Imagine

By: Juan Felipe Herrera (2018)

When Juan Felipe Herrera was very young, he picked flowers, helped his mama feed the chickens, slept under the starry sky, and learned to say goodbye to his amiguitos each time his migrant family moved on. When he grew up, Juan Felipe Herrera became a poet. **F** 32pgs

LEXILE: N/A  

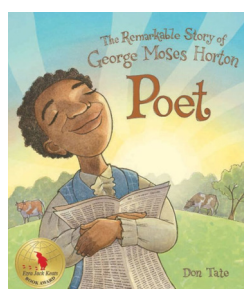


### Daniel Finds a Poem

By: Micha Archer (2016)

What is poetry? Is it crisp leaves crunching? That's what Squirrel says. Maybe poetry is all of these things, as it is something special for everyone - you just have to take the time to really look and listen. **F** 32pgs

LEXILE: AD560L   

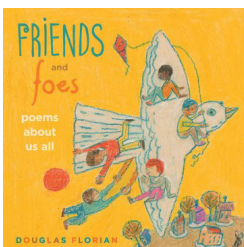


### Poet: The Remarkable Story of George Moses Horton

By: Don Tate (2015)

George loved words, but George was enslaved. News of the slave poet traveled quickly, and before long, George had customers for his poems. But George was still enslaved. Would he ever be free? **NF** 32pgs

LEXILE: 730L 

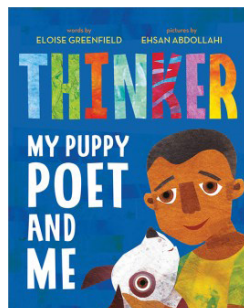


### Friends and Foes: Poems About Us All

By: Douglas Florian (2018)

Honest and humorous poems explore the many kinds of friend- new and old, good friends, bad friends, and imaginary ones too. **F** 32pgs

LEXILE: 460L 



### Thinker: My Puppy Poet and Me

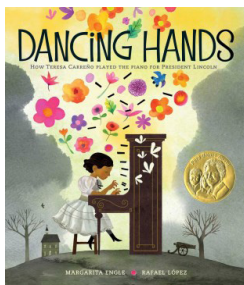
By: Eloise Greenfield (2019)

Thinker is not just an average puppy. He's a poet. So is his owner, Jace. Together, they turn the world around them into verse. There's just one problem: Thinker has to keep quiet in public, and he can't go to school with Jace. **F** 32pgs

LEXILE: NP  

## BUILDING KNOWLEDGE ART TOPIC

### MUSIC AND DANCE

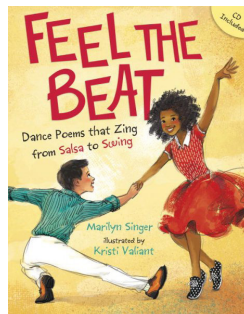


#### Dancing Hands: How Teresa Carreno Played the Piano for President Lincoln

By: Margarita Engle (2019)

As a little girl, Teresa Carreno loved to let her hands dance across the beautiful keys of the piano. If she felt sad, music cheered her up, and when she was happy, the piano helped her share that joy. Soon she was writing her own songs and performing in grand cathedrals. **NF** 32pgs

LEXILE: NC1260L  

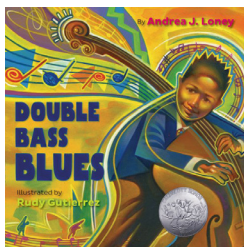


#### Feel the Beat: Dance Poems that Zing From Salsa to Swing

By: Marilyn Singer (2017)

Illustrated collection of children's poems written to the rhythms of traditional dances from around the world. **F** 32pgs

LEXILE: 490L 





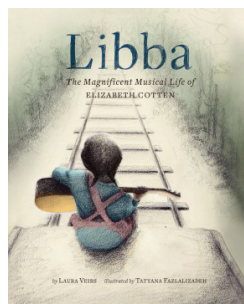
#### Double Bass Blue

By: Andrea Loney (2019)

After leaving his suburban school where he shines as an orchestral bassist, Nic carries his huge instrument through various obstacles in the city before arriving to play jazz tunes with

his grandfather. This is a sweet, melodious picture book about how dedication, music, and family can overcome any obstacle. **F** 26pgs

LEXILE: AD270L  



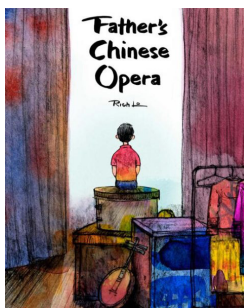
#### Libba: The Magnificent Musical Life of Elizabeth Cotten

By: Laura Veirs (2018)

Elizabeth Cotten was only a little girl when she picked up a guitar for the first time. It wasn't hers (it was her big brother's), and it wasn't strung right for her (she was left-handed). But she flipped

that guitar upside down and backwards and taught herself how to play it anyway. **NF** 39pgs

LEXILE: 580L  



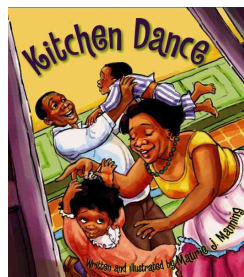
#### Father's Chinese Opera

By: Rich Lo (2014)

The Chinese opera is anything but boring. Songs, acrobatics, acting, and costumes make the opera a truly spectacular show to behold. Spending a summer backstage at his father's Chinese opera, a young boy is instantly enamored with the performers and works hard to be a part of the show.

**F** 36pgs

LEXILE: AD700L  

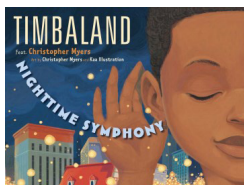


#### Kitchen Dance

By: Maurie Manning (2008)

Two sleepy children sneak out of their beds to watch as their parents, who love each other very much, break into a dance while washing the dishes. **F** 30pgs

LEXILE: AD570L 

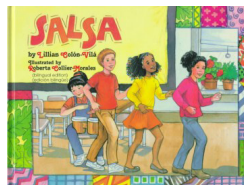


### Nighttime Symphony

By: Timbaland (2019)

As a little boy gets ready for bed, the sounds of a wild storm echo around him, lulling him to sleep. From the crash of thunder to the pitter-patter of raindrops to the beat of passing cars, the music of the city creates a cozy bedtime soundtrack. **F** 32pgs

LEXILE: 740L 

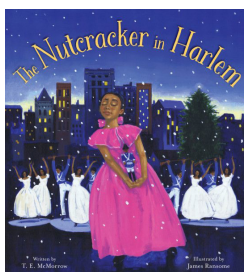


### Salsa

By: Lillian Colon-Vila (1998)

Rita, a young girl living in New York's El Barrio, describes the Afro-Caribbean dance music, salsa, and imagines being a salsa director. **F** 32pgs

LEXILE: N/A  

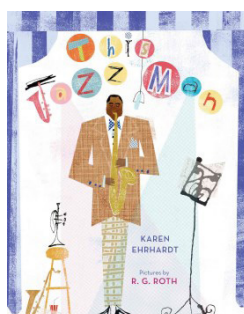


### The Nutcracker in Harlem

By: T.E. McMorrow (2017)

In Harlem in the 1920s, in the middle of a family Christmas party, Marie receives a nutcracker from her Uncle Cab, which leads to a marvelous dream in this resetting of E.T.A. Hoffmann's familiar tale. **F** 32pgs

LEXILE: N/A 



### This Jazz Man

By: Karen Ehrhardt (2006)

Presents an introduction to jazz music and nine well-known jazz musicians, set to the rhythm of the traditional song, "This Old Man." **F** 32pgs



LEXILE: NP  

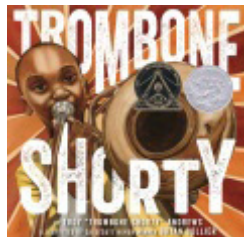


### R-E-S-P-E-C-T: Aretha Franklin, The Queen of Soul

By: Carole Boston Weatherford (2020)

Aretha Franklin was born to sing. The daughter of a pastor and a gospel singer, her musical talent was clear from her earliest days in her father's Detroit church where her soaring voice spanned more than three octaves. **NF** 32pgs

LEXILE: AD830L  



### Trombone Shorty

By: Troy Andrews (2015)

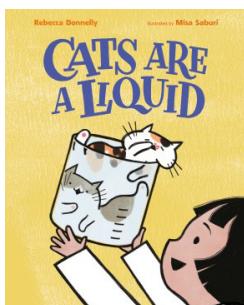
Hailing from the Trem neighborhood in New Orleans, Troy "Trombone Shorty" Andrews got his nickname by wielding a trombone twice as long as he was high. A prodigy, he was leading his own band by age six, and today this Grammy-nominated artist headlines the legendary New Orleans Jazz Fest. **NF** 40pgs

LEXILE: 760L  



# BUILDING KNOWLEDGE SCIENCE TOPIC

## ALL ABOUT ANIMALS

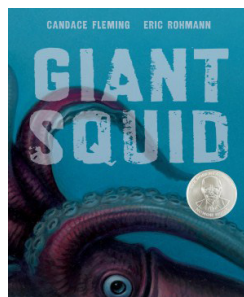


### Cats are Liquid

By: Rebecca Donnelly (2019)

Illustrations and simple, rhyming text pay tribute to cats and their resemblance to a liquid. This book introduces some of the physical properties of liquids - they adapt to fit a container, they flow like fluids - and is just pure fun. **F** 32pgs

LEXILE: N/A

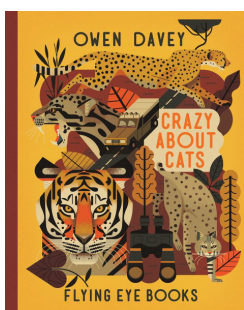


### Giant Squid

By: Candace Fleming (2016)

The giant squid is one of the most elusive creatures in the world. As large as whales, they hide beyond reach deep within the sea, forcing scientists to piece together their story from those clues they leave behind. **NF** 32pgs

LEXILE: 990L

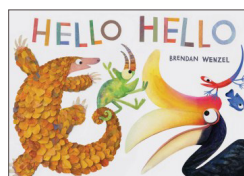


### Crazy About Cats

By: Owen Davey (2017)

Did you know that the fishing cat has partially webbed paws for catching fish? Or that pumas can leap over 15 feet into trees? There are roughly 38 species of cats today, each one superbly adapted to their environment - whether that be in the rainforest or the desert! **NF** 37pgs

LEXILE: N/A

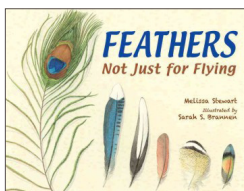


### Hello Hello

By: Brendan Wenzel (2018)

In simple text a set of animals, each one linked to the previous one by some trait of shape, color, or pattern, greet and interact with one another. **F** 32pgs

LEXILE: N/A

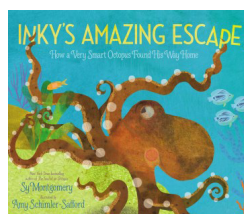


### Feathers: Not Just for Flying

By: Melissa Stewart (2014)

Feathers are most obviously connected with flight, but they have so much more going for them: they can act like a blanket, a pillow, a shade against the sun, or even sunscreen! **NF** 32pgs

LEXILE: 910L



### Inky's Amazing Escape: How a Very Smart Octopus Found His Way Home

By: Sy Montgomery (2018)

Inky had been at the New Zealand aquarium since 2014 after being taken in by a fisherman. Inky had been getting used to his new environment, but the staff figured out that he had to be kept amused or he would get bored. Then one night in 2016, Inky decided he'd had enough and he slithered across the floor and down a drainpipe to his home in the sea.

**NF** 32pgs

LEXILE: 590L



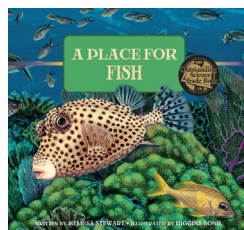


## Me...Jane

By: Patrick McDonnell (2011)

This book tells the story of the young Jane Goodall and her special childhood toy chimpanzee named Jubilee. As the young Jane observes the natural world around her with wonder, she dreams of a life living with and helping all animals, until one day she finds that her dream has come true. **F** 40pgs

LEXILE: AD740L



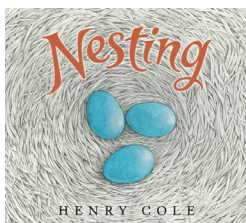
## A Place for Fish

By: Higgins Bond (2018)

Provides a look at fish and the ecosystems that support them, discusses the effects of human activity on fish populations, and includes a list of things readers can do to help protect fish.

**NF** 32pgs

LEXILE: 870L



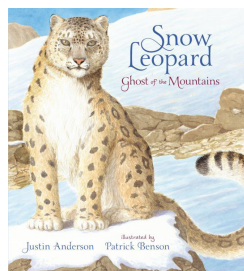
## Nesting

By: Henry Cole (2019)

In this black-and-white picture book, the reader will follow two robins as they build a nest with twigs and grass. Then mother robin lays four blue eggs and will

keep the eggs warm in the nest until they hatch into robins. The father robin protects the babies until they can fly on their own. The perils the babies encounter are many, including snakes and storms. The nest is always their safe place. **F** 34pgs

LEXILE: N/A



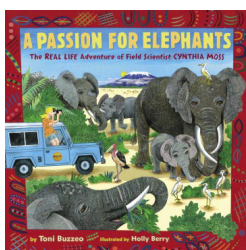
## Snow Leopard: Ghost of the Mountains

By: Justin Anderson (2019)

The people who live among the high peaks of the Himalayas tell stories of a mysterious animal called the gray ghost. To see one, you'd have to be very lucky indeed. Join a zoologist in the Himalayan mountains as he searches for the elusive creature.

**NF** 26pgs

LEXILE: AD910L

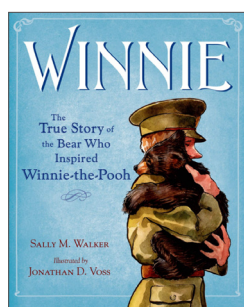


## A Passion for Elephants

By: Toni Buzzeo (2015)

Cynthia Moss was never afraid of BIG things. So when Cynthia traveled to Africa and met the world's most ENORMOUS land animal, the African elephant, at Amboseli National Park in Kenya, she knew she had found her life's work. **NF** 32pgs

LEXILE: NC1030L



## Winnie

By: Sally M. Walker (2015)

When Harry Colebourn saw a baby bear for sale at the train station, he knew he could care for it. But who could care for the bear when Harry had to go to the battleground in France?

**NF** 40pgs

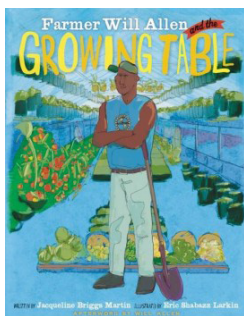
LEXILE: 540L





# BUILDING KNOWLEDGE SCIENCE TOPIC

## PLANTS' GROWTH AND APPRECIATION



### Farmer Will Allen and the Growing Table

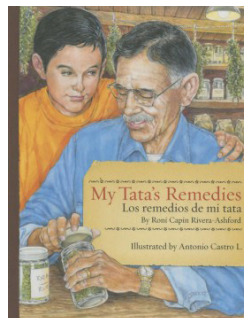
By: Jacqueline Briggs Martin (2013)

Will Allen is no ordinary farmer. A former basketball star, he's as tall as his truck, and he can hold a cabbage--or a basketball--in one hand. But what is most special about Farmer Will is that he can

see what others can't see. When he looked at an abandoned city lot in Milwaukee he saw a huge table, big enough to feed the whole world.

**NF** 32pgs

**LEXILE:** AD620L  

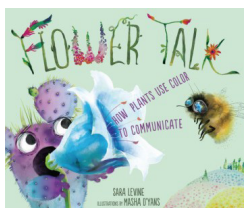


### My Tata's Remedies

By: Roni Rivera-Ashford (2015)

Tata Gus teaches his grandson Aaron how to use natural healing remedies, and in the process helps the members of his family and his neighbors. **F** 40pgs

**LEXILE:** N/A   

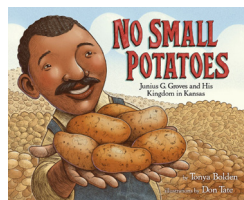


### Flower Talk: How Plants Use Color to Communicate

By: Sara Levine (2019)

Explores how plants use their colors to communicate with insects, enticing them to carrying their pollen in order to produce seeds that will grow into more plants. **NF** 32pgs

**LEXILE:** 570L 

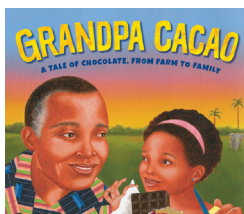


### No Small Potatoes

By: Tonya Bolden (2018)

For Junius G. Groves freedom came when he was still a young man and he intended to make a name for himself. As he built his empire, on tons and tons of potatoes. He never quit working hard, even as the naysayers doubted him, and soon he was declared Potato King of the World and had five hundred acres and a castle to call his own. **NF** 40pgs

**LEXILE:** AD920L



### Grandpa Cacao: A Tale of Chocolate, From Farm to Family

By: Elizabeth Zunon (2019)

A little girl and her father bake a birthday cake together while Daddy tells the story of Grandpa Cacao, a farmer from the Ivory Coast in West Africa. **F** 32pgs

**LEXILE:** AD820L



### One Little Lot: The 1-2-3s of an Urban Garden

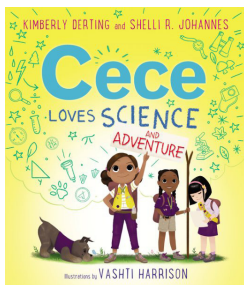
By: Diane C. Mullen (2020)

Count all the ways (one to ten) an urban community unites to clean up an abandoned lot. As the garden grows, strangers become friends, eventually sharing in a special feast with the harvest they grew. **F** 32pgs

**LEXILE:** AD680L 

# BUILDING KNOWLEDGE SCIENCE TOPIC

## SEASONS AND WEATHER



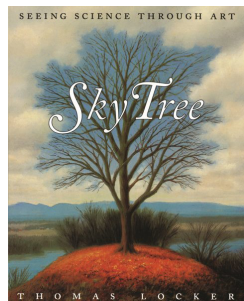
### Cece Loves Science and Adventure

By: Kimberly Derting (2019)

When Cece and her Adventure Girls troop face a sudden thunderstorm, they use science, technology, engineering, and math to solve problems and make their way safely back to camp.

F 32pgs

LEXILE: 580L 



### Sky Tree: Seeing Science Through Art

By: Thomas Locker (1995)

In this stunning book by Thomas Locker, exquisite paintings are paired with questions about nature, making science come alive through art. **NF** 40pgs

LEXILE: AD560L 

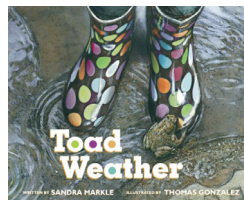


### If Winter Comes, Tell It I'm Not Here

By: Simona Ciruolo (2020)

Despite dire predictions about winter, a child is smitten by the season's charms in this ode to living in the moment. **F** 30pgs

LEXILE: N/A



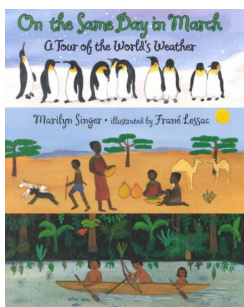
### Toad Weather

By: Sandra Markle (2015)

There's nothing to do on a rainy day – or so Ally thinks. But Mama says she's seen something amazing, so despite misgivings, she sets out on an adventure. On

her journey, she sees all sorts of things: dripping awnings, wet cardboard, splashing cars - but also earthworms, storm drain geysers, and oil slick patterns. **NF** 32pgs

LEXILE: AD530L  



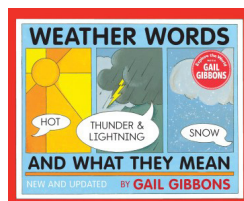
### On the Same Day in March: A Tour of the World's Weather

By: Marilyn Singer (2000)

Highlights a wide variety of weather conditions by taking a tour around the world and examining weather in different places on the same day in March.

**NF** 38pgs

LEXILE: AD810L



### Weather Words and What They Mean

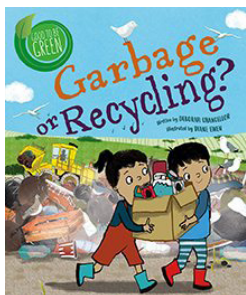
By: Gail Gibbons (2019)

Everyone talks about the weather, but what does it all mean? In clear, accessible language, readers are introduced to many common terms - like moisture, air pressure, and temperature - and their definitions. **NF** 32pgs

LEXILE: AD590L 

# BUILDING KNOWLEDGE SCIENCE TOPIC

## HEALTHY BODIES

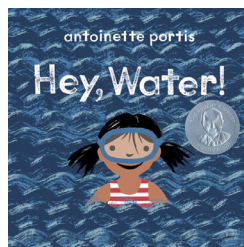


### Garbage or Recycling?

By: Deborah Chancellor (2020)

When Nasir and Nadia make a robot for their school's junk model competition, they learn what garbage can be recycled and what happens to the garbage they throw away. They also learn ways to reduce, reuse, and recycle. **F** 32pgs

LEXILE: AD550L



### Hey, Water!

By: Antoinette Portis (2019)

Join a young girl as she discovers water in nature, in weather, in her home, and even inside her own body, water comes to life, and kids will find excitement and joy in water and its many forms.

**NF** 32pgs

LEXILE: AD410L  



### Green Machine

By: Rebecca Donnelly (2020)

Celebrate the innovation and science that helps turn your food waste into green energy. See how food scraps are composted, collected, and processed, transforming trash into biogas and

electricity. It's a green machine! It's a celebration of sustainability and the important role we humans play in the energy cycle. **NF** 32pgs

LEXILE: N/A 

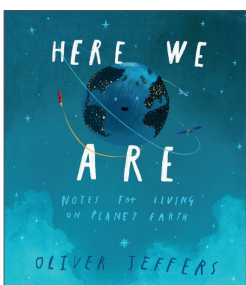


### Lady Bird Johnson, That's Who!

By: Tracy Nelson Maurer (2021)

Claudia Alta Taylor was a lonely girl, shy as a butterfly growing up in Texas. She never dreamed she'd blossom into a visionary leader whose love for wildflowers, beautiful landscapes, and building community compelled her to lead the effort to combat pollution in the United States. **NF** 40pgs

LEXILE: N/A 

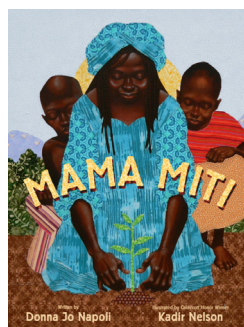


### Here We Are: Notes for Living on Planet Earth

By: Oliver Jeffers (2017)

Oliver Jeffers offers a rare personal look inside his own hopes and wishes for his child-- and in doing so gifts children and parents everywhere with a gently sweet and humorous missive about our world and those who call it home. **F** 48pgs

LEXILE: AD530L  



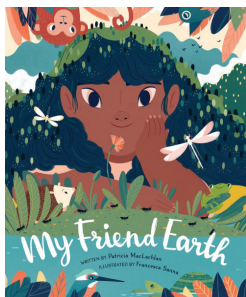
### Mama Miti: Wangaria Maathi and the Trees of Kenya

By: Donna Jo Napoli (2010)

Today more than 30 million trees have been planted throughout Mama Miti's native Kenya, and in 2004 she became the first African woman to win the Nobel Peace Prize. Maathai has changed Kenya tree by tree. **NF** 88pgs

LEXILE: 900L  





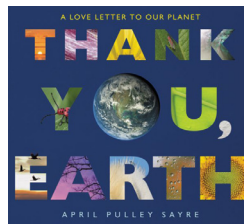
## My Friend Earth

By: Patricia MacLachlan (2020)

Our friend Earth does so many wonderful things She tends to animals large and small. She pours down summer rain and autumn leaves. She sprinkles whisper-white snow and protects the tiny seeds waiting for spring.

**F** 36pgs

**LEXILE:** N/A

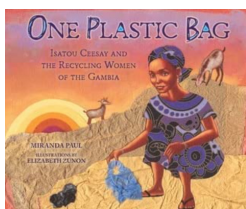


## Thank You, Earth: A Love Letter to Our Planet

By: April Pulley Sayre (2018)

Thanks the Earth for its natural aspects, such as trees, seasons, and sunsets. Contains a section giving advice on being environmentally active. **NF** 40pgs

**LEXILE:** AD370L



## One Plastic Bag

By: Miranda Paul (2015)

Isatou Ceesay found a way to recycle broken plastic bags and transform her community. This inspirational true story shows how one person's actions really can make a difference in our world.

**NF** 40pgs

**LEXILE:** AD570L

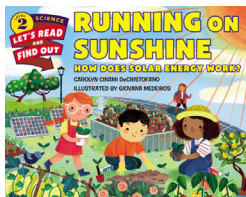


## We are Water Protectors

By: Carole Lindstrom (2020)

Water is the first medicine. It affects and connects us all. When a black snake threatens to destroy the Earth and poison her people's water, one young water protector takes a stand to defend Earth's most sacred resource. **NF** 40pgs

**LEXILE:** N/A

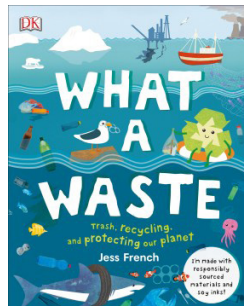


## Running Sunshine: How Does Solar Energy Work?

By: Carolyn DeCristofano (2018)

Read and find out about solar roads that light up when there's danger ahead, like a moose on the road and did you know that someday tiny solar chips placed in someone's eyes could help a blind person see? **NF** 37pgs

**LEXILE:** N/A



## What a Waste

By: Jess French (2019)

Everything you need to know about what we're doing to our environment, good and bad, from pollution and litter to renewable energy and plastic recycling. This environmental book will teach young ecologists about how our actions affect planet Earth. **NF** 72pgs

**LEXILE:** IG920L



# BUILDING KNOWLEDGE SCIENCE TOPIC

## WHAT'S IN THE SKY



### Go for the Moon

By: Chris Gall (2019)

As the Apollo 11 spacecraft makes its preparations to become the first to land humans on the moon, a young boy imagines himself also in preparation as he sits in his red wagon rocket. As he goes on the journey with them, he describes the craft, the flight, and the landing. **NF** 32pgs

LEXILE: 840L



### A Moon of My Own

By: Jennifer Rustgi (2016)

Join an adventurous young girl as she journeys to all seven continents with her friend the moon. The moon is the girl's constant companion as it lights up the Eiffel Tower, Great Wall of China, the Amazon Rainforest, and more. **F** 32pgs

LEXILE: AD480L

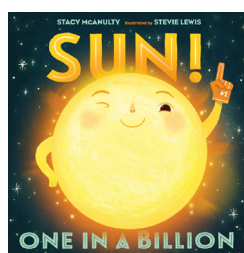


### Mae Among the Stars

By: Roda Ahmed (2018)

Little Mae's curiosity, intelligence, and determination, matched with her parents' encouraging words, paved the way for her incredible success at NASA as the first African American woman to travel in space. **F** 32pgs

LEXILE: AD580L



### Sun: One in a Billion

By: Stacy McAnulty (2018)

Meet Sun: He's a star! And not just any star - he's one in a billion. He lights up our solar system and makes life possible. **NF** 32pgs

LEXILE: 520L

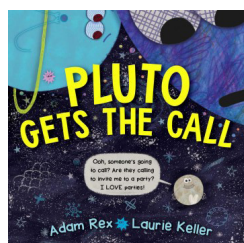


### Mission to Space

By: John B. Herrington (2016)

Astronaut John Herrington shares his passion for space travel and his Chickasaw heritage as he gives children a glimpse into his astronaut training at NASA and his mission to the International Space Station. **NF** 32pgs

LEXILE: N/A



### Pluto Gets the Call

By: Adam Rex (2019)

Pluto loves being a planet. That is, until the day he gets a call from some Earth scientists telling him he isn't a planet anymore! You probably wanted to meet a real planet, huh? So, Pluto takes

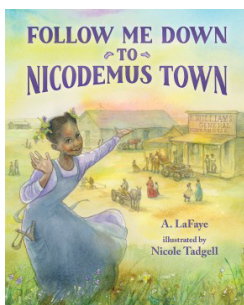
the reader on a hilarious and informative journey through the solar system to introduce the other planets and commiserate about his situation along the way. **F** 48pgs

LEXILE: 510L



# BUILDING KNOWLEDGE SOCIAL STUDIES TOPIC

## AMERICAN FRONTIER

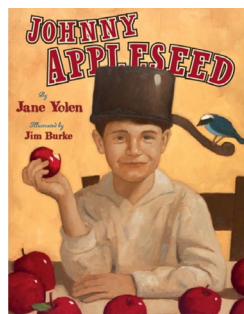


### Follow Me Down to Nicodemus Town

By: A. LaFaye (2019)

When a young African American girl named Dede Patton sees a notice for free land in Kansas, her family leaves sharecropping behind and stakes a claim near the town of Nicodemus. To farm the land and own it free and clear, they must survive their first winter on the prairie. **F** 32pgs

LEXILE: 780L 



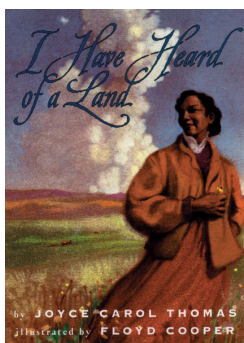
### Johnny Appleseed

By: Jane Yolen (2008)

Everyone knows the legend of Johnny Appleseed, the man from Massachusetts who planted apple trees all the way to California. But the true story of Johnny Appleseed, or John Chapman, is even greater than the legend.

**NF** 32pgs

LEXILE: AD880L

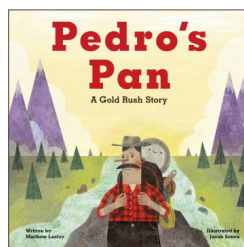


### I Have Heard of a Land

By: Joyce Carol Thomas (1998)

Describes the joys and hardships experienced by an African-American pioneer woman who staked a claim for free land in the Oklahoma territory. **F** 31pgs

LEXILE: NP 



### Pedro's Pan: A Gold Rush Story

By: Matthew Lasley (2019)

Pedro and his pan go on an exciting adventure together - to strike gold! They hike mountains, whack through bushes, and wade through streams as they sift through dirt and gravel in search of the hidden nuggets. **F** 32pgs

LEXILE: N/A

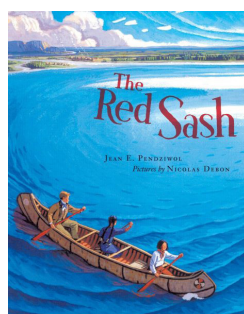


### The Little Pioneer

By: Adam Hancher (2018)

Set in 1849, the story follows a young girl's journey westward with her widowed mother and younger brothers in tow. Armed with hope, the family loads all of their possessions onto an old wooden wagon and embarks on an uncertain trek across the Great Plains. **F** 40pgs

LEXILE: N/A 



### The Red Sash

By: Jean Pendziwol (2005)

A young Metis boy who lives with his family near the trading post of Fort William earns the status of a true voyageur when he helps a representative of the North West Company whose canoe has been damaged in a storm reach the annual rendezvous celebration.

**F** 30pgs

LEXILE: 660L



# BUILDING KNOWLEDGE SOCIAL STUDIES TOPIC

## AMERICAN FIGURES AND SYMBOLS

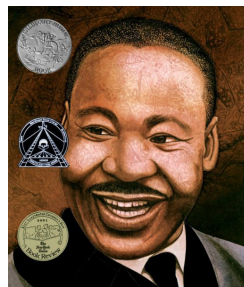


### Celebrating U.S. Holidays

By: Charlotte Taylor (2021)

Students who enjoy watching colorful fireworks explode on the Fourth of July may wonder why Americans come together to celebrate certain national holidays each year. This book will keep readers engaged as they learn about the rich history and significant people behind the holidays Americans celebrate today. **NF 24pgs**

LEXILE: N/A



### Martin's Big Words

By: Doreen Rappaport (2001)

Rappaport uses quotes from some of Dr. King's most beloved speeches to tell the story of his life and his work. A timeline and a list of additional books and websites help make this a standout biography of Dr. King. **NF 40pgs**

LEXILE: AD610L



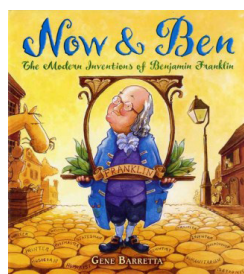
### Her Right Foot

By: Dave Eggers (2017)

In this fascinating and fun take on nonfiction for kids, Dave Eggers and Shawn Harris investigate a seemingly small trait of America's most emblematic statue. What

they find in the Statue of Liberty's right foot is the powerful message of acceptance that is essential of an entire country's creation. **NF 104pgs**

LEXILE: NC800L



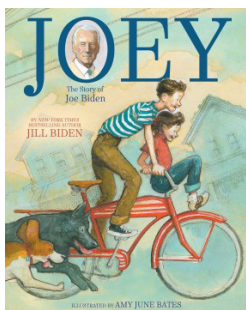
### Now and Ben: The Modern Inventions of Benjamin Franklin

By: Gene Barretta (2009)

What would you do if you lived in a community without a library, hospital, post office, or fire department? If you were Benjamin Franklin, you'd set up these

organizations yourself. Franklin also designed the lightning rod and invented bifocals - all inspired by his common sense and intelligence. **NF 40pgs**

LEXILE: 640L

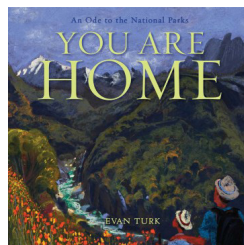


### Joey: The Story of Joe Biden

By: Jill Biden (2020)

Joe Biden grew up in Scranton, Pennsylvania, the oldest of four children. His parents always encouraged him and his siblings to be independent and strong. The family moved to Wilmington, Delaware, where at twenty-nine, Biden was elected one the youngest United States Senators ever elected. This is his story. **NF 48pgs**

LEXILE: 890L



### You are Home: An Ode to the National Parks

By: Evan Turk (2019)

Presents a collection of illustrations depicting the scenes and wildlife found in National Parks around the United States. From the rugged coast of Maine

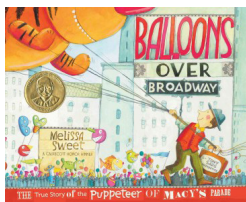
to the fiery volcanoes of Hawaii, You Are Home reminds us that every animal, plant, and person helps make this land a brilliant, beautiful sanctuary of life. **F 32pgs**

LEXILE: NP



# BUILDING KNOWLEDGE SOCIAL STUDIES TOPIC

## CULTURES AND TRADITIONS

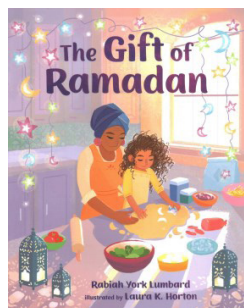


### Balloons Over Broadway

By: Melissa Sweet (2011)

Everyone's a New Yorker on Thanksgiving Day, when young and old rise early to see what giant new balloons will fill the skies for Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. Melissa Sweet tells the story of the puppeteer Tony Sarg, capturing his genius, his dedication, his zest for play, and his long-lasting gift to America - the inspired helium balloons that would become the trademark of Macy's Parade. **NF** 34pgs

LEXILE: AD1000L



### The Gift of Ramadan

By: Rabiah York Lumbard (2020)

Sophia wants to fast for Ramadan this year. Her grandma tells her that fasting helps make a person sparkly - and Sophia loves sparkles. But when her attempt at fasting fails, Sophia must find another way to participate.

**F** 32pgs

LEXILE: N/A

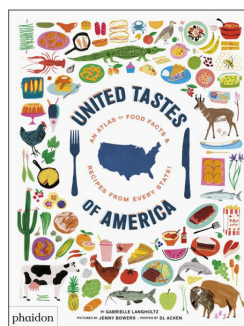


### Celebrating All Cultures

By: Abby Colich (2021)

Our communities are stronger when we come together and take time to understand, support, and celebrate one another. In Celebrating All Cultures, readers will learn the importance of acceptance and empathy as they relate to different cultures and how to practice these in their daily lives. **NF** 24pgs

LEXILE: 500L

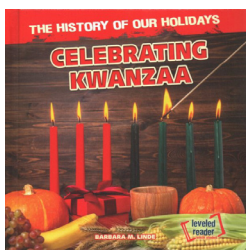


### United Tastes of America

By: Gabrielle Langholtz (2019)

Presents a collection of facts about common food traditions in each state, highlighting the natural resources in relation to regional dishes. Includes maps and recipes with ingredient lists, step-by-step instructions, a rated difficulty level, and color photographs. **NF** 239pgs

LEXILE: N/A



### Celebrating Kwanzaa: History of Our Holidays

By: Barbara M. Linde (2020)

Many people are familiar with the bright colors and fun associated with the holiday, but many don't know why or when it's celebrated. Meant to celebrate the unity between African Americans and their African roots, Kwanzaa began in the 1960s. **NF** 24pgs

LEXILE: N/A



### Welcoming Elijah: A Passover Tale with a Tail

By: Leslea Newman (2016)

When it's time for the symbolic Passover custom of opening the family's front door for the prophet Elijah, both the boy and the cat are in for a remarkable surprise.

**F** 32pgs

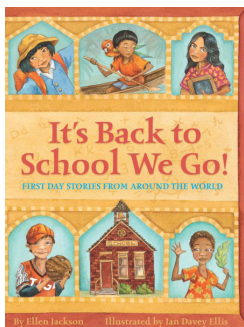
LEXILE: AD430L





# BUILDING KNOWLEDGE SOCIAL STUDIES TOPIC

## DIFFERENT LANDS, SIMILAR STORIES

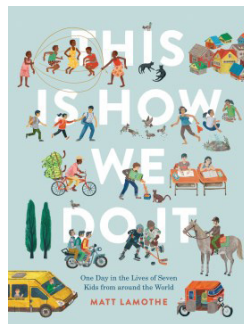


### It's Back to School We Go!

By: Ellen B. Jackson (2003)

The first day of school is an event that brings mixed emotions to children everywhere. This book describes what the first day feelings might be like for a child in Kenya, Kazakhstan, Canada, Australia, Japan, China, Peru, Germany, India, Russia, and the United States. **NF** 32pgs

LEXILE: N/A

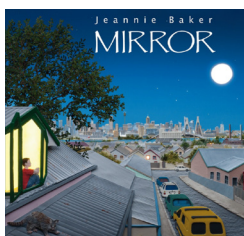


### This is How We Do It

By: Matt Lamothe (2017)

Introduces seven real children from around the world - Italy, Iran, Japan, India, Peru, Russia, and Uganda - and takes readers through a typical day in their lives from daybreak to sunset. Illustrates the differences and similarities in their homes, clothing, foods, schools, and activities. **NF** 52pgs

LEXILE: NC620L   



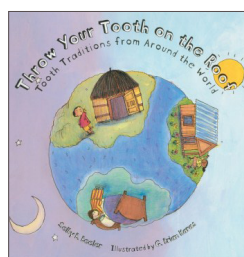
### Mirror

By: Jeannie Baker (2010)

Although thousands of miles apart, there are many similarities between the homes and daily routines for the two boys in this book. Its minutely detailed illustrations inspire readers to see

that, in spite of surface difference, there is often more similarity in our lives than might, at first, be recognised. **F** 440pgs

LEXILE: NP   

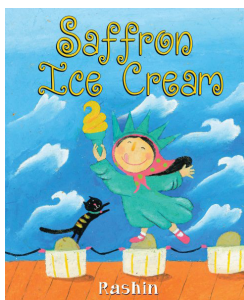


### Throw Your Tooth on the Roof

By: Selby B. Beeler (1998)

What do you do when you lose a tooth? Do you put it under your pillow and wait for the tooth fairy? Beeler spent years collecting traditions from every corner of the globe for this whimsical book. **NF** 32pgs



LEXILE: AD540L  

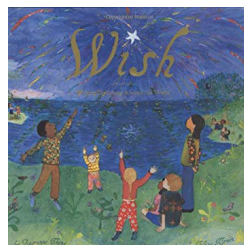


### Saffron Ice Cream

By: Rashin Kheiriyeh (2018)

Rashin is an Iranian immigrant girl living in New York, excited by her first trip to Coney Island, and fascinated by the differences in the beach customs between her native Iran and her new home - but she misses the saffron flavored ice cream that she used to eat. **F** 32pgs

LEXILE: AD580L  



### Wish: Wishing Traditions Around the World

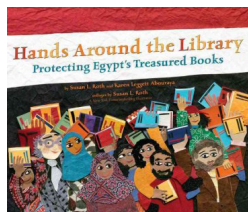
By: Roseanne Thong (2009)

Explores fifteen different ways children around the world make wishes ranging from blowing out birthday candles to flying giant kites. Each custom provides insight into the cultures of lands far and near while reminding us of the similarities we all share. **NF** 40pgs

LEXILE: N/A

# BUILDING KNOWLEDGE SOCIAL STUDIES TOPIC

## EARLY CIVILIZATIONS: EGYPT



### Hands Around the Library: Protecting Egypt's Treasured Books

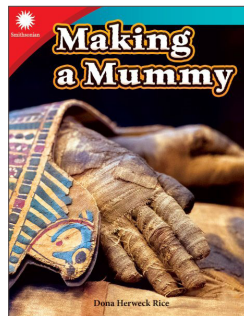
By: Susan L. Roth (2012)

In January 2011, thousands of Egypt's students, library workers, and demonstrators surrounded

the great Library of Alexandria and joined hands, forming a human chain to protect the building. They chanted "We love you, Egypt!" as they stood together for the freedom the library represented.

NF 32pgs

LEXILE: 680L

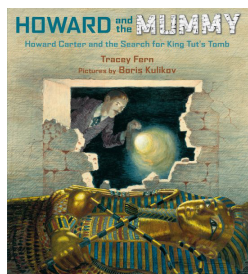


### Making a Mummy

By: Dona Rice (2019)

Describes the Egyptian mummification process, what archaeologists can learn from mummies, and the tools they use to study mummies. NF 32pgs

LEXILE: N/A

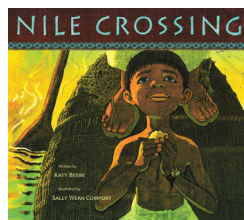


### Howard and the Mummy

By: Tracey E. Fern (2018)

Howard Carter was obsessed with mummies. He met his first when he was a boy in England and lived near a mansion filled with Egyptian artifacts. Howard dreamed of discovering a mummy himself - especially a royal mummy in its tomb, complete with all its treasures. NF 40pgs

LEXILE: N/A



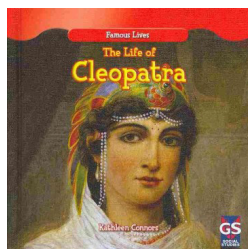
### Nile Crossing

By: Katy Beebe (2017)

Khepri, who lives in ancient Egypt, begins to feel nervous as he and his father travel to Thebes for Khepri's first day of scribe school.

F 32pgs

LEXILE: AD960L



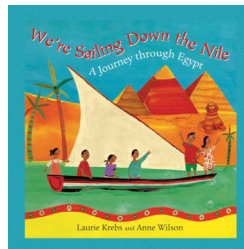
### The Life of Cleopatra

By: Kathleen Connors (2014)

Cleopatra was perhaps the most powerful queen of her time and is certainly one of the best known today. Readers are introduced to the intrigue and excitement surrounding the last queen of Egypt as they encounter other significant historical figures.

NF 24pgs

LEXILE: N/A



### We're Sailing Down the Nile

By: Laurie Krebs (2008)

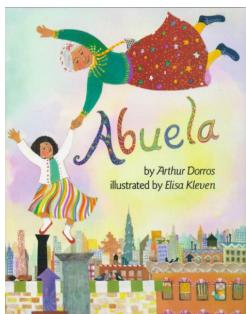
As the riverboat sails down the Nile River, remnants of Egypt's long history and aspects of its present culture are revealed on its banks. F 40pgs

LEXILE: N/A



# BUILDING KNOWLEDGE SOCIAL STUDIES TOPIC

## FAMILIES

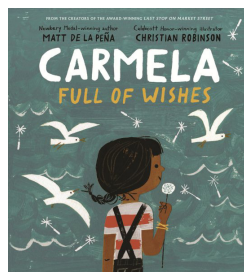


### Abuela

By: Arthur Dorros (1991)

While riding on a bus with her grandmother, a little girl imagines that they are carried up into the sky and fly over the sights of New York City. **F** 40pgs

LEXILE: 510L

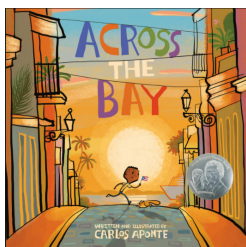


### Carmela Full of Wishes

By: Matt de la Peña (2018)

Carmela, finally old enough to run errands with her brother, tries to think of the perfect wish, while his wish seems to be that she stayed home. **F** 32pgs

LEXILE: 630L



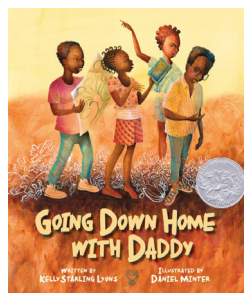
### Across the Bay

By: Carlos Aponte (2019)

Carlito's life in his hometown is cozy as can be, but the call of the capital city pulls Carlitos across the bay in search of his father.

**F** 32pgs

LEXILE: 570L

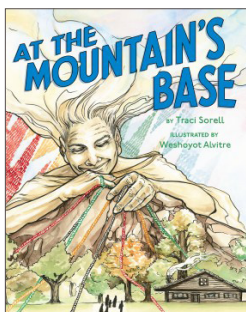


### Going Down Home with Daddy

By: Kelly Lyons (2019)

Down home is where Lil Alan and his parents and sister will join great-grandparents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins to hear stories of the ancestors and visit the land that has meant so much to all of them. **F** 32pgs

LEXILE: 660L



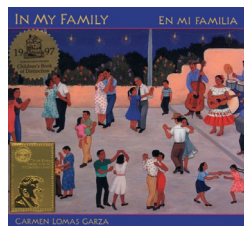
### At the Mountain's Base

By: Traci Sorell (2019)

At the mountain's base sits a cabin under an old hickory tree. And in that cabin lives a family. The strength in their song sustains them through trials on the ground and in the sky, as they wait for their pilot to return from war.

**F** 32pgs

LEXILE: 480L



### In My Family

By: Carmen Garza (1996)

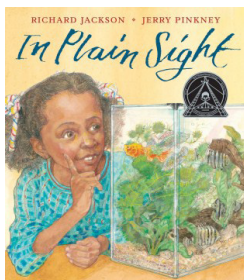
The author describes, in bilingual text and illustrations, her experiences growing up in an Hispanic community in Texas.

**NF** 32pgs

LEXILE: 830L





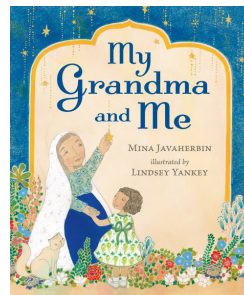


### In Plain Sight

By: Richard Jackson (2016)

Sophie lives with Mama and Daddy and Grandpa, who spends his days by the window. Every day after school, it's Grandpa whom Sophie runs to. **F** 32pgs

LEXILE: N/A



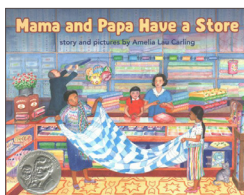
### My Grandma and Me

By: Min Javaherbin (2019)

In a true tale of a young girl in Iran and her grandmother, this beautiful ode to family celebrates small moments of love that become lifelong memories.

**NF** 32pgs

LEXILE: N/A



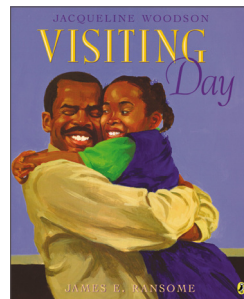
### Mama and Papa Have a Store

By: Amelia Lau Carling (2016)

From the clip, clop of the milkman's mule in the early morning to the clacking of her father's abacus at night, a young

girl brings us into her home, which is also her parents' store. Located in Guatemala City, the store is filled with the colorful textures of cloth, threads, buttons, and things from her parents' homeland in China. **F** 30pgs

LEXILE: N/A



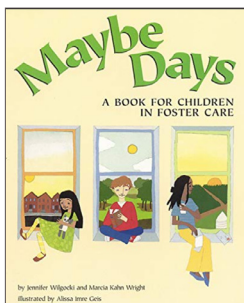
### Visiting Day

By: Jacqueline Woodson (2015)

A young girl and her grandmother prepare for a very special day - the one day a month they get to visit the girl's father in prison. As the little girl and her grandmother get ready, her father, who adores her, is getting ready, too, and

readers get to join the community of families who make the trip together, as well as the triumphant reunion between father and child. **F** 32pgs

LEXILE: AD520L

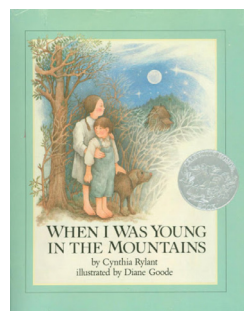


### Maybe Days: A Book for Children in Foster Care

By: Jennifer Wilgocki (2002)

For many children in foster care, the answer to many questions is often maybe. Maybe Days is a straightforward look at the issues of foster care, the questions that children ask, and the feelings that they confront. **NF** 27pgs

LEXILE: N/A



### When I was Young in the Mountains

By: Cynthia Rylant (1982)

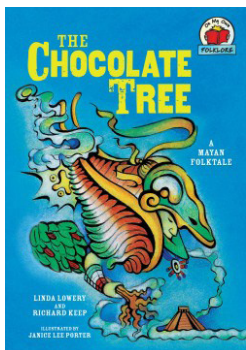
Rylant delights in the simple joys of living with her grandparents in the Appalachian Mountains. Surrounding all of these memories is the loving relationship with her grandparents. **F** 32pgs

LEXILE: AD780L



# BUILDING KNOWLEDGE SOCIAL STUDIES TOPIC

## LATINO CULTURES AND CIVILIZATIONS

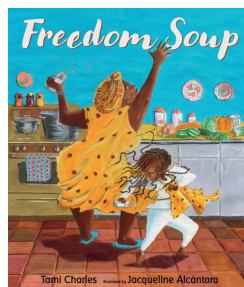


### The Chocolate Tree: A Mayan Folklore

By: Linda Lowery (2009)

Retells the legend of Mayan king Kukulcan, who goes against his brother's wishes and gives his people an amazing chocolate tree. **F** 48pgs

LEXILE: 590L



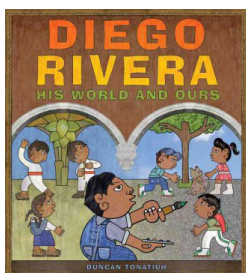
### Freedom Soup

By: Tami Charles (2019)

Join the celebration in the kitchen as a family makes their traditional New Year's soup - and shares the story of how Haitian independence came to be.

**F** 32pgs

LEXILE: N/A



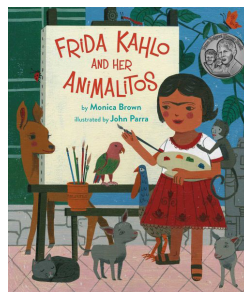
### Diego Rivera: His World and Ours

By: Duncan Tonatiuh (2011)

Diego Rivera, one of the most famous painters of the twentieth century, was once just a mischievous little boy who loved to draw. But this little boy would grow up to follow his passion and greatly influence the world of art.

**NF** 33pgs

LEXILE: AD1040L

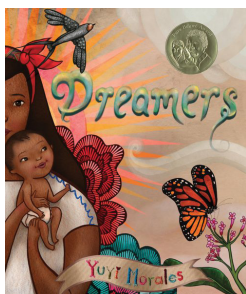


### Frida Kahlo and Her Animalitos

By: Monica Brown (2017)

Chronicles Frida's life - from her childhood to her rise as one of the world's most influential painters - and the animals that inspired her along the way. **NF** 32pgs

LEXILE: AD780L

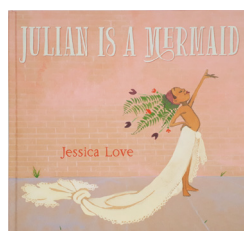


### Dreamers

By: Yuyi Morales (2018)

A gentle reminder of a child's resilience that can soften difficult situations through imagination and truth. **NF** 40pgs

LEXILE: AD480L



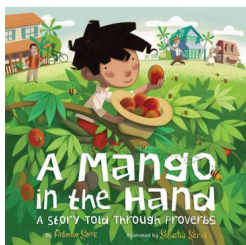
### Julián is a Mermaid

By: Jessica Love (2018)

While riding the subway with his abuela, Julián notices three women spectacularly dressed up, hair in brilliant hues, and dresses with fishtails. When Julián gets home, all he can think about is dressing up in his own mermaid costume: a butter-yellow curtain for his tail, the fronds of a potted fern for his headdress. **F** 40pgs

LEXILE: 190L



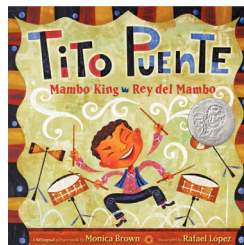


## A Mango in the Hand

By: Antonio Sacre (2011)

Guided by proverbs from his father and other relatives, Francisco makes several attempts to bring ripe mangoes home for dessert on his saint day, and in the process learns lessons in love and generosity. **F** 32pgs

LEXILE: N/A

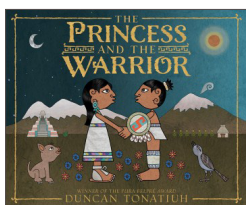


## Tito Puente, Mambo King

By: Monica Brown (2013)

Presents a bilingual picture book biography of musician Tito Puente describing his childhood in Spanish Harlem, his military service, his education at the Juilliard School of Music, and his rise to fame as The Mambo King. **NF** 32pgs

LEXILE: AD620L



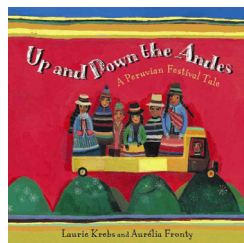
## The Princess and the Warrior

By: Duncan Tonatiuh (2016)

Princess Izta had many wealthy suitors but dismissed them all. When a mere warrior, Popoca, promised to be true to her

and stay always by her side, Izta fell in love. As promised Popoca stayed by her side. So two volcanoes were formed: Iztaccihuatl, who continues to sleep, and Popocatepetl, who spews ash and smoke, trying to wake his love. **NF** 17pgs

LEXILE: 770L

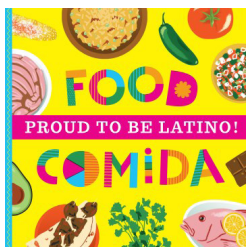


## Up and Down the Andes

By: Laurie Krebs (2011)

Children from many areas of southern Peru use different forms of transportation to travel to the Inti Raymi festival in the city of Cusco. **NF** 32pgs

LEXILE: N/A



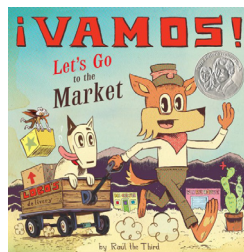
## Proud to be Latino: Food

By: Ashley Mireless (2019)

Did you know that there are over 5000 types of potatoes sold in South America? Or that in Honduras, a song about conch soup reached the Billboard Top

100 Charts? Proud to Be Latino: Food/Comida teaches children how different Latino countries use similar ingredients to create unique regional dishes. **NF** 20pgs

LEXILE: N/A



## Vamos! Let's Go to the Market

By: Rual the Third (2019)

Follow Little Lobo and his dog Bernabe as they deliver supplies to a variety of vendors, selling everything from sweets to sombreros, portraits to piñatas, carved masks to comic books! **F** 48pgs

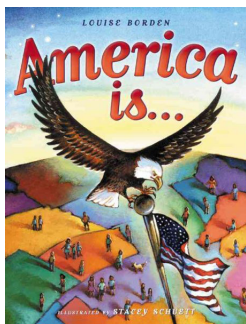
LEXILE: AD610L





# BUILDING KNOWLEDGE SOCIAL STUDIES TOPIC

## THE MAKING OF AMERICA

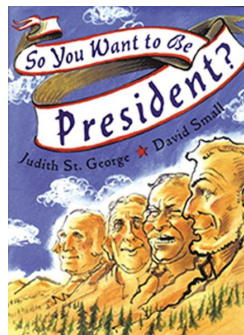


### America Is...

By: Louise Borden (2002)

It is fifty states from the Atlantic coast to the Pacific Ocean and beyond. It is a flag of stars and stripes. It is farmers, miners, factory workers, bakers, and bankers. It is Niagara Falls and the Grand Canyon, swamps and desert. It is the stories of all of us, told together. **F** 40pgs

LEXILE: AD590L

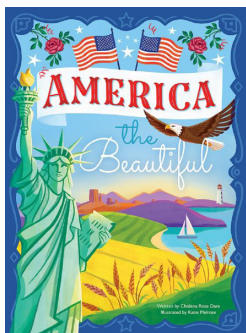


### So You Want to Be President?

By: Judith St. George (2012)

Presents an assortment of facts about the qualifications and characteristics of U.S. presidents, from George Washington to George W. Bush. **NF** 52pgs

LEXILE: 850L

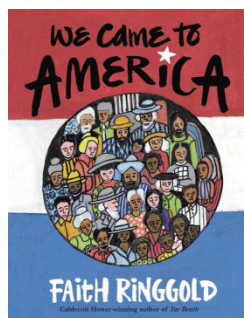


### America the Beautiful

By: Katie Melrose (2021)

Learn about prominent American artists, innovations, and food that made history and continue to shape our lives. **F** 20pgs

LEXILE: N/A



### We Came to America

By: Faith Ringgold (2016)

Celebrates United States immigration and the country's diverse immigrant heritage.

**F** 32pgs

LEXILE: AD430L



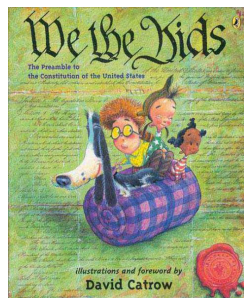
### Curious About the White House

By: Kate Waters (2015)

Everybody knows the building at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue. It's the White House, home to US presidents, first ladies, first children, and even first pets! But

aren't you curious: why is the house white (and how many gallons of paint keep it that way)? Who built the place? **NF** 32pgs

LEXILE: NC760L



### We the Kids

By: David Catrow (2005)

A long time ago some smart guys wrote the Preamble to the Constitution. You have probably read it before, but do you know what it means? And did it ever make you laugh? Now it will!

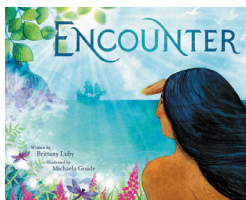
**NF** 28pgs

LEXILE: NP



# BUILDING KNOWLEDGE SOCIAL STUDIES TOPIC

## NATIVE AMERICAN CULTURES AND TRADITIONS

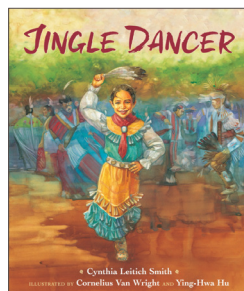


### Encounter

By: Brittany Luby (2019)

A powerful imagining by two Native creators of a first encounter between two very different people that celebrates our ability to acknowledge difference and find common ground. **F** 36pgs

LEXILE: N/A

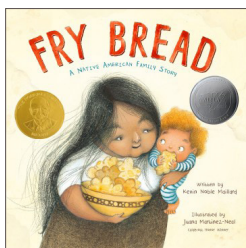


### Jingle Dancer

By: Cynthia L. Smith (2000)

Jenna, a Muscogee (Creek) girl, wants to jingle dance at the upcoming powwow. With time running short, she seeks the assistance of women of her contemporary intertribal community in bringing together her regalia. **F** 32pgs

LEXILE: 650L

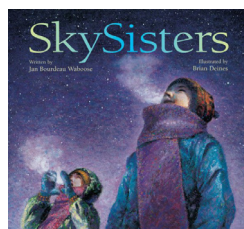


### Fry Bread: A Native American Family Story

By: Kevin Maillard (2019)

Follows a Native American family as they make fry bread and celebrate their culture. **F** 41pgs

LEXILE: N/A

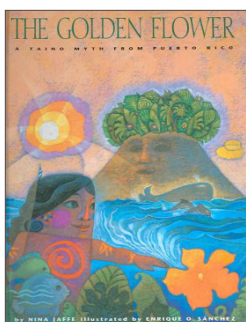


### SkySisters

By: Jan Waboose (2000)

As two young Ojibway sisters set off across the north country to Coyote Hill to see the SkySpirits dance, Grandmother Moon lights the way. **F** 32pgs

LEXILE: AD560L

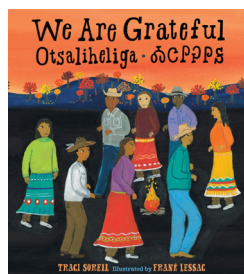


### The Golden Flower

By: Nina Jaffe (2005)

A Taino myth of how the island of Puerto Rico was created in a world that once had no water or vegetation but was only a tall mountain on a desert plain. A boy finds seeds and plants them at the top of the mountain and pumpkins grow. When the pumpkin breaks, the sea rushes out and fills the plain, leaving the mountaintop island of Puerto Rico. **F** 32pgs

LEXILE: 580L



### We are Grateful

By: Traci Sorell (2018)

The word otsaliheliga (oh-jah-LEE-hay-lee-gah) is used by members of the Cherokee Nation to express gratitude. Beginning in the fall with the new year and ending in summer, follow a full Cherokee year of celebrations and experiences. **NF** 32pgs

LEXILE: NC970L





# BUILDING KNOWLEDGE SOCIAL STUDIES TOPIC

## WORLD GEOGRAPHY

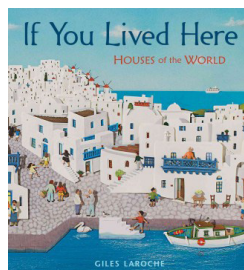


### Everything and Everywhere

By: Marc Martin (2018)

From Hong Kong to Reykjavik, Ulaanbaatar to New York City, this beautifully illustrated, fact-filled adventure book will take curious kids on a lush and unexpected journey around the globe to discover what makes each place unique. **NF** 32pgs

LEXILE: NP  

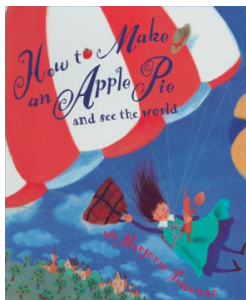


### If You Lived Here: House of the World

By: Giles Laroche (2011)

Step into unique homes from around the world and discover the many fascinating ways in which people live and have lived. If you lived in the mountains of southern Spain, your bedroom might be carved out of a mountain. And if you lived in a floating green house in the Netherlands, you could rotate your house to watch both the sunrise and sunset. **NF** 32pgs

LEXILE: NC1170L  



### How to Make an Apple Pie and See the World

By: Marjorie Priceman (1996)

Since the market is closed, the reader is led around the world to gather the ingredients for making an apple pie. **F** 32pgs

LEXILE: AD590L  

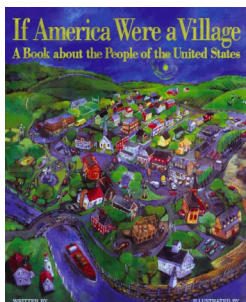


### A Ticket Around the World

By: Natalia Diaz (2019)

Join a young boy as he hops around the globe, visiting friends in thirteen different countries spanning all six populated continents. Along the way, he introduces us to each friend's environment and customs, and shares interesting facts about each country's culture, language, food, geography, wildlife, landmarks, and more. **NF** 31pgs

LEXILE: IG840L 

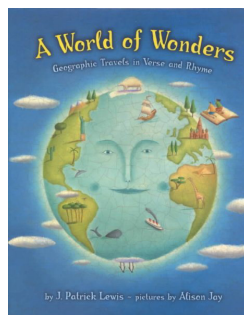


### If America Were a Village

By: David J. Smith (2009)

Imagine America as a classic, vibrant small town. The book's simple statistical analysis provides a new way of learning about where people live in America, the state of their health, the shapes and sizes of families, what they use and more - forming a concise picture of a country. **NF** 32pgs

LEXILE: 990L  



### A World of Wonders

By: Patrick Lewis (2002)

Could anyone somersault across the San Andreas fault? Why was Hawaii named after a Sandwich? Of longitude and latitude, which has more "flatitude"? You'll travel the globe discovering answers to these and other questions you never knew to ask! **NF** 33pgs

LEXILE: NP

# BUILDING KNOWLEDGE SOCIAL EMOTIONAL TOPIC

## SELF-AWARENESS



### Amazing Grace

By: Mary Hoffman (1991)

Grace loves stories, whether they're from books, movies, or the kind her grandmother tells. So when she gets a chance to be in Peter Pan, she knows exactly who she wants to be. **F 26pgs**

LEXILE: 680L

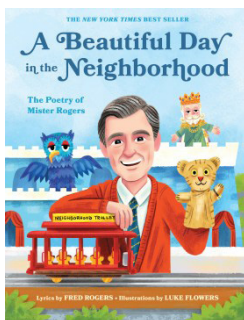


### Big Papa and the Time Machine

By: Daniel Bernstrom (2020)

When a little boy is feeling afraid to go to school one day, his grandfather, Big Papa, takes him away in his time machine - a 1952 Ford - back to all of the times when he was scared of something life was handing him. **F 40pgs**

LEXILE: N/A

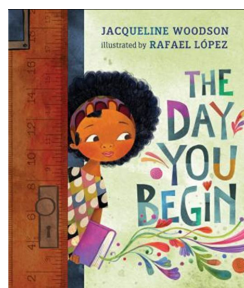


### A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood

By: Fred Rogers (2019)

From funny to sweet, silly to sincere, the lyrics of Mister Rogers explore such universal topics as feelings, new siblings, everyday life, imagination, and more. **F 141pgs**

LEXILE: 550L

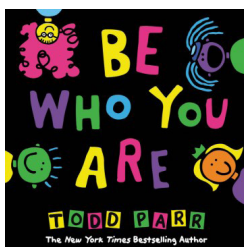


### The Day You Begin

By: Jacqueline Woodson (2018)

There are many reasons to feel different. It's not easy to take those first steps into a place where nobody really knows you yet, but somehow you do it. **F 32pgs**

LEXILE: AD980L

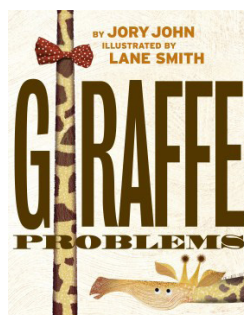


### Be Who You Are

By: Todd Parr (2016)

Encourages kids to be proud of what makes them unique, where they come from, and how they express themselves and see the world. **F 32pgs**

LEXILE: AD270L



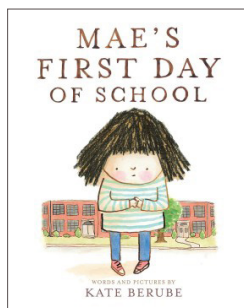
### Giraffe Problems

By: Jory John (2018)

Edward the giraffe can't understand why his neck is as long and bendy and, well, ridiculous as it is. No other animal has a neck this absurd. **F 32pgs**

LEXILE: AD530L





## Mae's First Day of School

By: Kate Berube (2018)

Today is Mae's first day of school. But Mae says, 'I'M. NOT. GOING.' With the help of Rosie and Ms. Pearl, will Mae be ready to start the day? **F** 32pgs

LEXILE: N/A



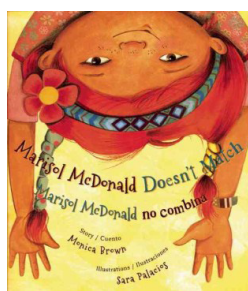
## Under My Hijab

By: Hena Khan (2019)

As a young girl observes six very different women in her life who each wear the hijab in a unique way, she also dreams of the rich possibilities of her own future, and how she will express her own personality through her hijab.

**F** 32pgs

LEXILE: AD710L

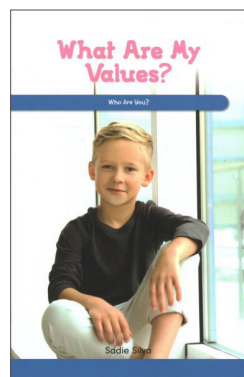


## Marisol McDonald Doesn't Match

By: Monica Brown (2011)

Marisol McDonald, a biracial, nonconformist, soccer-playing pirate-princess with brown skin and red hair, celebrates her uniqueness. **F** 31pgs

LEXILE: AD580L



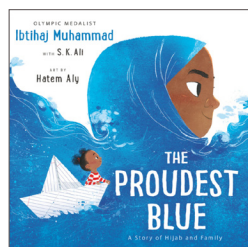
## What Are My Values?

By: Sadie Silva (2020)

This book delves into the essential SEL skill of accurate self-perception, an integral component of the SEL core concept of self-awareness. Readers learn how to define their values, a key part of their identity.

**NF** 12pgs

LEXILE: N/A



## The Proudest Blue

By: Ibtihaj Muhammad (2019)

It's the start of a brand new year and, best of all, it's Faizah's older sister Asiya's first day of hijab -a hijab of beautiful blue fabric, like the ocean waving to the sky. But not everyone sees hijab as beautiful, and in the face of hurtful, confusing words, Faizah will find new ways to be strong.

**F** 32pgs

LEXILE: 500L



## Your Name is a Song

By: Patrick Lewis (2002)

A little girl named Kora-Jalimuso is frustrated at school because every teacher and all her classmates cannot pronounce her name. The book is a celebration to remind us all about the beauty, history, and magic behind names.

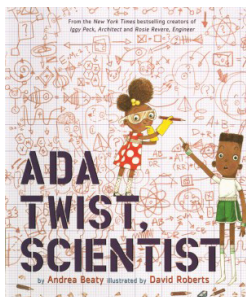
**F** 33pgs

LEXILE: N/A



# BUILDING KNOWLEDGE SOCIAL EMOTIONAL TOPIC

## SELF-MANAGEMENT



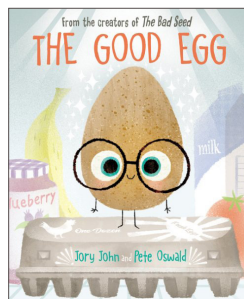
### Ada Twist, Scientist

By: Andrea Beaty (2016)

Ada Twist is a very curious girl who shows perseverance by asking questions and performing experiments to find things out and understand the world.

F 32pgs

LEXILE: AD550L  



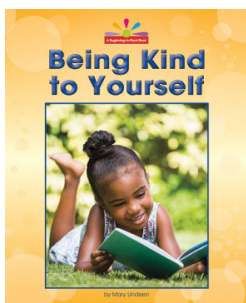
### The Good Egg

By: Jory John (2019)

One very good Egg learns that he is maybe trying too hard to be good when his brother and sister eggs don't take his good efforts to keep their place clean. So, the good Egg takes a break to reconnect with himself, and learns how to manage his stress.

F 34pgs

LEXILE: AD510L   

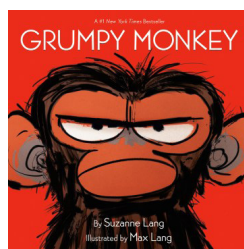


### Being Kind to Yourself

By: Mary Lindeen (2021)

Everybody has good days and bad days. Understanding how to care for our bodies and minds every day helps make the good days better and the bad days a little less bad. NF 32pgs

LEXILE: 350L 

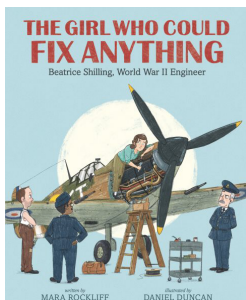


### Grumpy Monkey

By: Suzanne Long (2018)

Jim Panzee wakes up in a bad mood one beautiful day, but he keeps denying he is grumpy even as his friends give advice for feeling better. F 32pgs

LEXILE: AD460L 

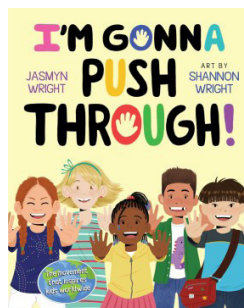


### The Girls Who Could Fix Anything

By: Mara Rockliff (2021)

Beatrice Shilling wasn't quite like other children. She could make anything. She could fix anything. And when she took a thing apart, she put it back together better than before. NF 48pgs

LEXILE: N/A

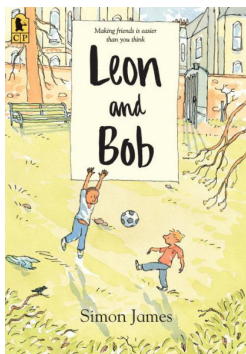


### I'm Gonna Push Through!

By: Jasmyn Wright (2020)

Based on the Push Through movement that inspires kids worldwide, this is an empowering, energetic, and all-inclusive picture book that celebrates resilience in the face of adversity. NF 32pgs

LEXILE: AD330L 



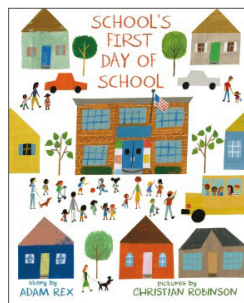
### Leon and Bob

By: Simon James (2016)

Leon and his imaginary friend, Bob, do everything together until a new boy moves in next door.

F 32pgs

LEXILE: 400L



### School's First Day of School

By: Adam Rex (2016)

It's the first day of school at Frederick Douglass Elementary and everyone's just a little bit nervous, especially the school itself.

F 32pgs

LEXILE: 580L



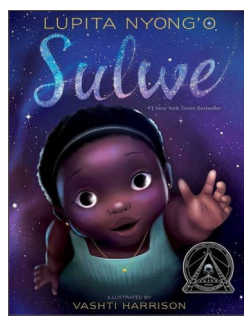
### The Many Colors of Harpreet Singh

By: Supriya Kelkar (2019)

Harpreet Singh has a different color for every mood and occasion, from pink for dancing to bhangra beats to red for courage. But when Harpreet's mom finds a new job in a snowy city and they have to move, all he wants is to be invisible. Will he ever feel a happy sunny yellow again?

F 32pgs

LEXILE: 530L



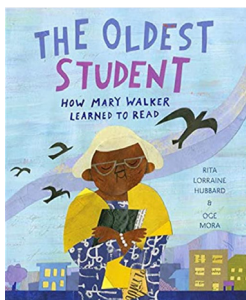
### Sulwe

By: Lupita Nyong'o (2019)

Sulwe has skin the color of midnight. Sulwe just wants to be beautiful and bright, like her mother and sister. Then a magical journey in the night sky opens her eyes and changes everything.

F 32pgs

LEXILE: AD580L



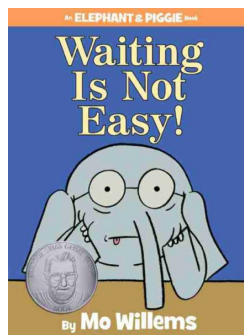
### The Oldest Student

By: Rita L. Hubbard (2020)

Imagine learning to read at the age of 116! Discover the true story of Mary Walker, the nation's oldest student who did just that.

NF 40pgs

LEXILE: AD830L



### Waiting Is Not Easy!

By: Mo Willems (2014)

Piggie has a special surprise for her friend, but Gerald is going to have to be patient and wait for it - and then wait some more!

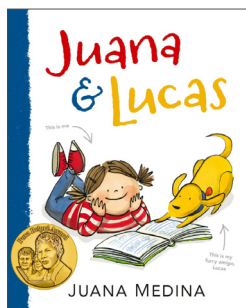
F 57pgs

LEXILE: 250L



# BUILDING KNOWLEDGE SOCIAL EMOTIONAL TOPIC

## SOCIAL AWARENESS

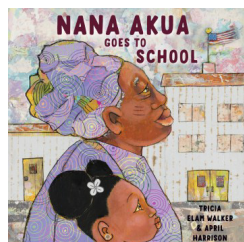


### Juana & Lucas

By: Juana Medina (2016)

Juana loves many things: drawing, living in Bogotá, Colombia, and especially her dog, Lucas, the best amigo ever. She does not love wearing her itchy school uniform, solving math problems, or learning the English. **F** 88pgs

LEXILE: 870L

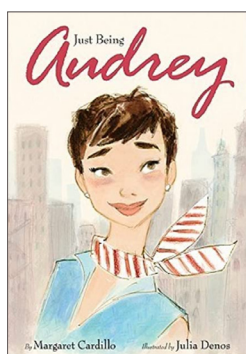


### Nana Akua Goes to School

By: Tricia Elam Walker (2020)

Zura is worried about how her classmates will react to her Ghanaian Nana's tattoos on Grandparents Day, but Nana finds a way to show how special and meaningful they are. **F** 32pgs

LEXILE: N/A

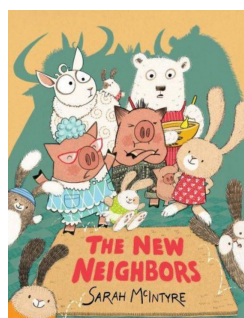


### Just Being Audrey

By: Margaret Cardillo (2011)

Audrey Hepburn's unique sense of fashion and her spirit made her beloved by generations, but her life offscreen was even more luminous. Growing up in Nazi occupied Europe, she learned that true kindness is the greatest measure of a person - and it was a lesson she used through her work with UNICEF. **NF** 32pgs

LEXILE: 740L



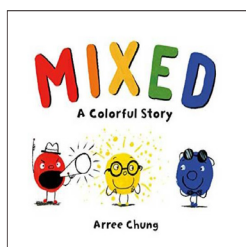
### The New Neighbors

By: Sarah McIntyre (2019)

The bunnies upstairs are thrilled to find out that rats have moved into the first floor apartment. But when other neighbors discover the news, excitement soon turns to jitters, panic, and worse! Will the animals make the rats leave, or can fear be conquered with delicious, homemade cake?

**F** 32pgs

LEXILE: 540L

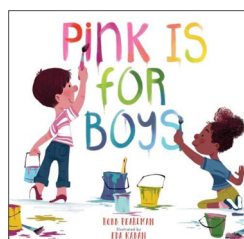


### Mixed: A Colorful Story

By: Arree Chung (2018)

In the beginning, there were three colors - Reds, Yellows, and Blues. When the colors decide to separate, is there anything that can change their minds? **F** 40pgs

LEXILE: AD500L



### Pink is for Boys

By: Robb Pearlman (2018)

This book empowers kids to express themselves in every color of the rainbow. Vibrant illustrations help children learn and identify the myriad colors that surround them every day, all the way up to the wonder of a multicolored rainbow. **F** 40pgs

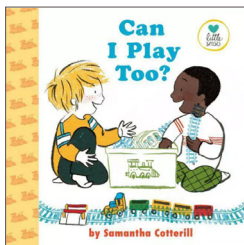
LEXILE: N/A





# BUILDING KNOWLEDGE SOCIAL EMOTIONAL TOPIC

## RELATIONSHIP SKILLS



### Can I Play Too?

By: Samantha Cotterill (2020)

Two boys' fun train-track-building project takes a turn when one of the boys obviously insists on only doing things his way. Their disagreement spells disaster for the train and the friendship, until a kind teacher steps in. **F** 32pgs

LEXILE: N/A

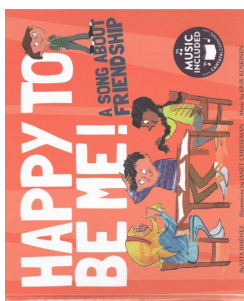


### A New Kind of Wild

By: Zara Gonzalez (2020)

For Ren, home is a place of magic and wonder, filled with all the fantastical friends that Ren dreams up, where his imagination can run wild. When Ren moves to Ava's city, he feels lost without his wild. **F** 32pgs

LEXILE: N/A

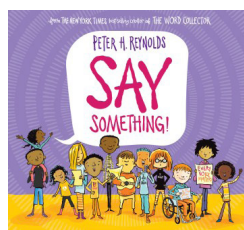


### Happy to Me: A Song About Friendship

By: Vita Jimenez (2018)

We all have features like ears, noses, feet, teeth, skin, and hair. But our features are unique, and we look different from one another. Upbeat lyrics and colorful illustrations teach children to celebrate their differences while accepting others. **NF** 24pgs

LEXILE: AD170L



### Say Something

By: Peter Reynolds (2019)

A story that explores the ways a single voice can make a difference. **F** 32pgs

LEXILE: AD510L

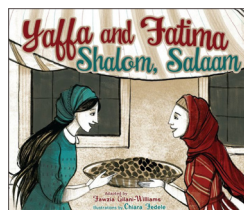


### Julia, Child

By: Kyo Maclear (2014)

Julia and Simca are two young friends who agree that you can never use too much butter - and that it is best to be a child forever. Sharing a love of cooking and having no wish to turn into big, busy people who worry too much and dawdle too little, they decide to create a feast for growing and staying young. **F** 32pgs

LEXILE: N/A



### Yaffa and Fatima: Shalom, Salaam

By: Fawzia Gilani-Williams (2017)

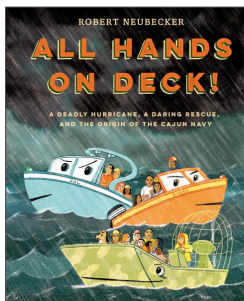
Two neighbors - one Jewish, one Muslim - have always been best friends. When they both fall on hard times, can they find a way to help each other? **F** 24pgs

LEXILE: 500L



# BUILDING KNOWLEDGE SOCIAL EMOTIONAL TOPIC

## RESPONSIBLE DECISION-MAKING

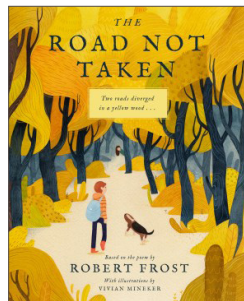


### All Hands on Deck!

By: Robert Neubecker (2021)

A heroic tale of boats, large and small, teaming up and lending a hand in a time of need, based on the true story of a community that came together to rescue survivors of Hurricane Katrina. **F** 32pgs

LEXILE: AD560L 

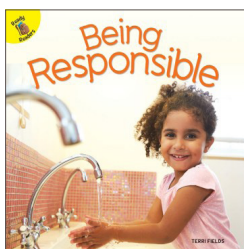


### The Road Not Taken

By: Robert Frost (2019)

Heartwarming illustrations of a young boy journeying through a yellow wood accompany the original text of the poem. When a fork in the road arises for the boy, so too does the first of life's many choices. **F** 32pgs

LEXILE: N/A



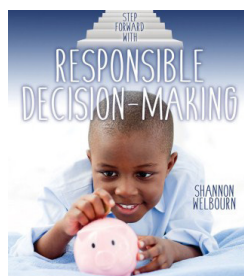
### Being Responsible

By: Terri Fields (2019)

Shows young readers a variety of ways in which they can show that they are responsible, from picking up their toys and brushing their teeth to telling the truth and keeping their promises.

**NF** 16pgs

LEXILE: 160L  

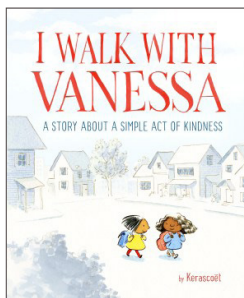


### Step Forward with Responsible Decision-Making

By: Shannon Welbourn (2017)

Responsible decision-making is an essential skill that can be applied to all areas of life. Making responsible decisions involves considering ethical standards, safety concerns, respect for others, and the consequences of various actions. **NF** 24pgs

LEXILE: 740L 



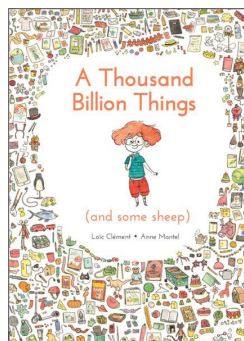
### I Walk with Vanessa

By: Kerascoet (2018)

An elementary school girl witnesses the bullying of another girl, but she is not sure how to help in this wordless picture book.

**F** 32pgs

LEXILE: NP   



### A Thousand Billion Things

By: Loic Clement (2017)

This book takes us through all the choices in a typical child's busy day and presents the reader with nine different hidden picture puzzles. **F** 32pgs

LEXILE: N/A 



# 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

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3

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4

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5

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6

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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)



<b>5</b>	<b>Text or Resource Description</b>	<b>Resource Type</b>	<b>Genre</b>	<b>Lexile (if applicable)<sup>1</sup> On grade level?<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Available in bilingual format?<sup>3</sup></b>

<b>6</b>	<b>Text or Resource Description</b>	<b>Resource Type</b>	<b>Genre</b>	<b>Lexile (if applicable)<sup>1</sup> On grade level?<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Available in bilingual format?<sup>3</sup></b>

<b>7</b>	<b>Text or Resource Description</b>	<b>Resource Type</b>	<b>Genre</b>	<b>Lexile (if applicable)<sup>1</sup> On grade level?<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Available in bilingual format?<sup>3</sup></b>

**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 level. 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 literature, 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	The library contains multiple books that include...	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	The library contains numerous books that include...	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	The library contains numerous books that...	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					

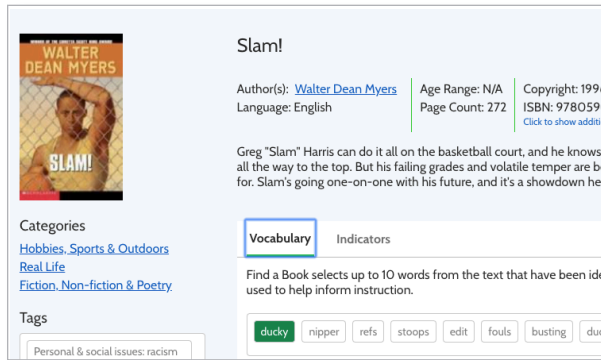
6	The library reflects...	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
	The diversity of my students and the community in which we live (e.g., gender, race, family structure, language, culture, socioeconomic background, etc.)					

**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: 9780590111111

Greg "Slam" Harris can do it all on the basketball court, and he knows it all the way to the top. But his failing grades and volatile temper are behind 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 & social issues: racism

Vocabulary Indicators

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

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 girls 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 of compassion.

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

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

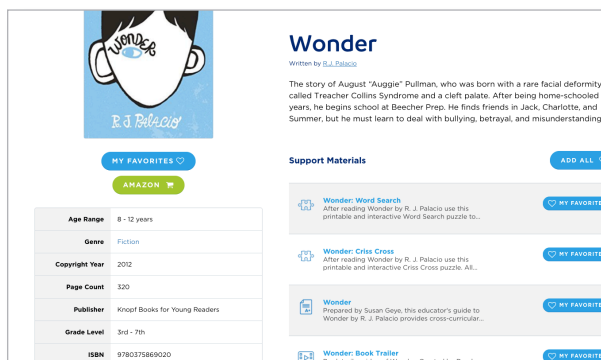
**Themes:** Coping with death; Immigrant experiences; Meet the family

**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.

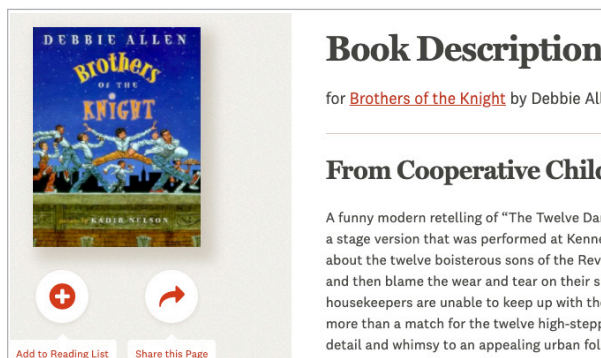
Support Materials

- 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. All...
- 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: 5th - 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 Children's Book Center**

A funny modern retelling of "The Twelve Days of Christmas" that was performed at Kennerly about the twelve boisterous sons of the Reverend and then blame the wear and tear on their shabby 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

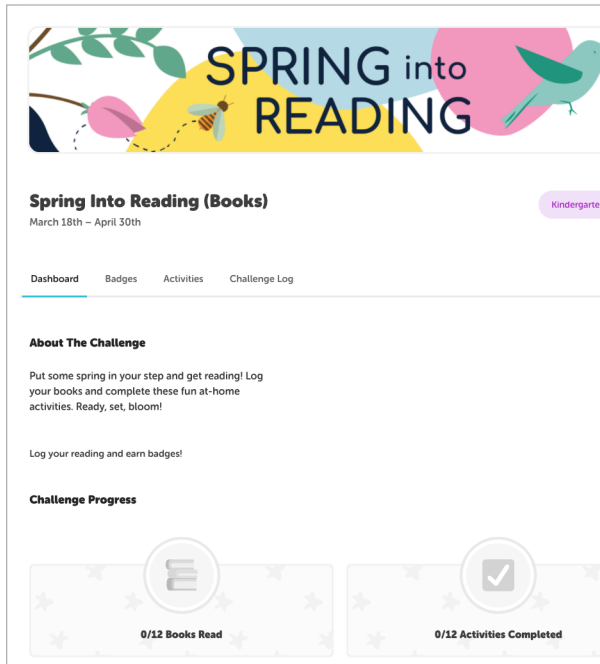
Add to Reading List | Share this Page

• **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.

The screenshot shows the 'READING GROUP' page for 'Mr. Bellew's Book Club'. It features a table with student reading proficiency data. The table has four columns: Name, Grade, At Grade Level?, and Student Reading Proficiency. The 'Student Reading Proficiency' column uses color-coded bars to indicate performance relative to grade level.

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.