equipped:
MISSISSIPPI
BOOK LIST
FOR ALL
5th GRADE
Office of Elementary Education and Reading
Office of Secondary Education
Fall 2021
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acknowledgments:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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, but it is not required for reading assignments or assessments.

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 the following components:

- allows students to build knowledge
- contains appropriate grade-level complexity
- offers a balance of diverse characters, cultures, perspectives, orientations, races, and ages
- aligns with the Mississippi College- and Career-Readiness Standards and HQIM curriculums

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,
- Multilingual or graphic formats,
- Award winner,
- Diversity or Social Emotional considerations,
- Grade-level appropriateness, and
- Connection to established book list 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.

Using materials that are AUTHENTIC AND RELEVANT TO STUDENTS’ LIVES leads to positive literacy outcomes such as increased motivation to read and write, increased engagement in literacy activities, improved recall and comprehension, and increased phonological awareness and fluency.


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, requires 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 Book List 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 Book List.

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 plan 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

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 Book List 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.

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 students by deepening their learning through using visualization and building background knowledge.

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.
graphic novels:

How Graphic Novels Can Turn Struggling or Reluctant Readers into STRONG READERS

Reading novels that support the College- and Career-Readiness Standards is important, but students cannot become lifelong readers if they do not open those books. As educators, we should encourage our students to read, even if the book has pictures.

There are several benefits to using Graphic Novels in English Language Arts (ELA) classrooms:

1. **RICH IN TEXT**
   Even though there is not much text to a graphic novel, they are still telling stories using dialogue and making students analyze what they see and comprehend. Every single graphic novel varies in the amount of text it has and how it is presented, but they are each their own ELA lesson.

2. **DIVERSITY**
   Graphic novels are diverse with a vast collection of characters that ALL students can respond to or react to. Representation matters for equipping ALL students to be culturally ready. It helps students determine how they connect with characters, settings, and cultures within what they read or see.

3. **BRIDGE BOOKS**
   Graphic novels will vary in terms of complexity. This format can be used as scaffolding where students can increase the reading level or confidence and move into more complex texts.

4. **GATEWAY LITERATURE:** Graphic novels can be used as a gateway that moves kids to those bigger and better novels that educators want students to read. Graphic novels engage students first and get them hooked, and then teachers can move students to more grade-level text.

**RESOURCE**  https://www.upperelementarysnapshots.com/2018/06/graphic-novels-rethinking-your.html
Using Graphic Novels with English Learners (EL)

Graphic Novels can be essential to ELs as they can benefit from the clues that the pictures can provide to reinforce the story's meaning, enhancing comprehension, and vocabulary. These types of literature can be used as high-quality supplemental instruction in all content areas. Additionally, graphic novels can help reinforce concepts in ELA, including plot structure and character development.

Here are four ways that graphic novels can benefit ELs:

1. **FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE**
   The illustrated panels of graphic novels provide visual information that gives helpful context to idioms, metaphors, and other figures of speech.

2. **COMPLEX, AGE-APPROPRIATE INTERESTS**
   Graphic novels support well-developed plots, storylines, and characters, so they can be used to teach complicated subjects that are appropriate for older students.

3. **PUNCTUATION AND EMPHASIS**
   The dialogue used in graphic novels uses frequent punctuation and the bolding of key terms to demonstrate how a phrase would be said aloud. The accompanying illustrations give additional visual clues to how dialogue should be read.

4. **UNFAMILIAR CULTURAL NORMS**
   Unlike text-only passages, the visuals show characters’ facial expressions, gestures, and positions to help reinforce cultural values and social issues.

**RESOURCE**  https://www.lexialearning.com/blog/4-surprising-ways-comics-and-graphic-novels-can-benefit-english-language-learners-
## Understanding the Book List:

**Building Knowledge Topic: Art and Artists**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Book Title</th>
<th>Author (Publication Date)</th>
<th>Grade Level(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Action Jackson</strong></td>
<td>By: Jan Greenberg (2002)</td>
<td>2nd Grade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Imagines Jackson Pollock at work during the creation of one of his paint-swirled and splattered canvases. NF 32 pgs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lexile:</strong> 750L</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Award Winner</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Multilingual</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Digital Format Available</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fiction</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Graphic Format</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wordless Picture Books, Graphic or Illustrated Guide</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>High-Low</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Illustrated Guide</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Not Available</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Adult Directed</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Graphic Novel</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Drawn Together**

By: Minh Le (2018)

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

F 34 pgs

**Lexile:** AD310L

**Award Winner**

**Multilingual**

**Digital Format Available**

**Fiction**

**Graphic Format**

**Wordless Picture Books, Graphic or Illustrated Guide**

**High-Low**

**Illustrated Guide**

**Not Available**

**Adult Directed**

**Graphic Novel**

**Multilingual Available**

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**Digital Format:** a book that is available as an audiobook or an ebook

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

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

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

**Multilingual:** a book that is available in multiple languages

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

**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

**IG – Illustrated Guide:** Nonfiction materials often used for reference

**N/A – 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
5th GRADE

book list:
Alicia Alonso: Prima Ballerina  
By: Carmen Bernier-Grand (2011)  
Alicia Alonso’s artistic achievements are remarkable, considering that she became partially blind and lost her peripheral vision at age nineteen.  
NF 64pgs  
LEXILE: 590L

Amazing Women of the Middle East  
By: Wafa’ Tarnowska (2021)  
Feel inspired by twenty-five amazing women from the Middle East, who have created a legacy through strength of vision, leadership, courage, and determination.  
NF 11pgs  
LEXILE: N/A

Finding Wonders  
By: Jeannine Atkins (2016)  
In this historical novel, author Atkins uses poetic verse to tell the stories of three women who greatly increased mankind’s scientific understanding of the world with their wondrous discoveries.  
NF 195pgs  
LEXILE: 970L

Henry Louis Gates Jr.  
By: J.P. Miller (2021)  
Chronicles the life and work of Henry Louis Gates Jr, African American literacy critic, historian, and filmmaker, and details his influence on the field of genealogy as the first African American to have his genome fully sequenced.  
NF 24pgs  
LEXILE: 720L

HerStory  
By: Katherine Halligan (2018)  
Follow the stories of fifty powerhouse women from around the world and across time who each managed to change the world as they knew it forever.  
NF 112pgs  
LEXILE: 1080L

Amelia Lost  
By: Candace Fleming (2011)  
On May 21, 1937, the most famous female pilot of all time, Amelia Earhart, set out to do the impossible: circumnavigate the globe at its widest point—27,000 miles in all. Just six weeks later, she disappeared over the Pacific Ocean.  
NF 118pgs  
LEXILE: 930L

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NF 118pgs  
LEXILE: 930L
The Inker’s Shadow
By: Allen Say (2015)
Allen Say’s father, one of the leading hamburger salesmen in Japan, sent Allen to an American military academy so that his son could become a success in life. As the school’s first and only Japanese student, he experienced immediate racism among his fellow cadets and his teachers. **NF** 79pgs
LEXILE: HL580L

March Forward, Girl
By: Melba Beals (2019)
Beals’ autobiography looks at her childhood when she began noticing the injustice of racism. Discusses the impact of her parents who both highly valued education - her mother earning a PhD from University of Arkansas - and her grandmother who understood how to live in a white world but also how to rebel within it. **NF** 202pgs
LEXILE: 950L

Rad Women Worldwide
By: Kate Schatz (2016)
The book features an array of diverse figures from 430 BCE to 2016, spanning 31 countries around the world, from Hatshepsut (the great female king who ruled Egypt) and Malala Yousafzi (the youngest person to win the Nobel Peace Prize) to Poly Styrene (legendary singer of X-Ray Spex) and Liv Arnesen and Ann Bancroft (polar explorers and the first women to cross Antarctica). **NF** 104pgs
LEXILE: N/A

Radioactive!
By: Winifred Conkling (2018)
While Meitner’s groundbreaking achievement was not rewarded by the Nobel committee and Curie was denied admission into the French Academy of Sciences, these female scientists’ accomplishments were crucial in the development of nuclear energy and, ultimately, the creation of the nuclear bomb. **NF** 227pgs
LEXILE: 1160L

Rosa’s Animals
By: Maryann Macdonald (2018)
Painter and sculptor Rosa Bonheur led a highly nontraditional life, especially for a woman in the nineteenth century. She kept lions as pets, was awarded the Legion of Honor by Empress Eugenie, and befriended “Buffalo Bill” Cody. **NF** 64pgs
LEXILE: 1010L

Thurgood Marshall
By: Teri Kanefield (2020)
Presents a biography of Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, including his early life, education, career as a civil rights lawyer, and appointment to the U.S. Supreme Court. **NF** 249pgs
LEXILE: N/A
Cool Salsa
By: Lori Carlson (1994)
Poems celebrate themes and moods from Hispanic American teenage life, from the passion of learning English to the pain of ethnic prejudice. F 160pgs
LEXILE: N/A

Enchanted Air
By: Margarita Engle (2015)
Margarita is a girl from two worlds. Her heart lies in Cuba, her mother’s tropical island country, but most of the time she lives in Los Angeles, lonely in the noisy city. Words and images are her constant companions, friendly and comforting when the children at school are not. NF 193pgs
LEXILE: 1120L

Out of Wonder
By: Kwame Alexander (2017)
Twenty original poems each celebrate a specific poet in a terrific collection that also serves as an introduction to the poets honored. F 40pgs
LEXILE: NP

Mixed Feelings
By: Avan Jogia (2019)
Drawing on his own life story, Avan Jogia explores his complicated emotions around race, identity, religion, love, and loss through poetry and imagery. F 144pgs
LEXILE: N/A

This Poem is a Nest
By: Irene Latham (2020)
The words of a thirty-seven-line poem describing a robin’s nest through the seasons are used in 161 new poems on accompanying pages in this collection. The “found” poems take on subjects such as emotions, constellations, colors, and animals. F 112pgs
LEXILE: NP

Woke
By: Mahogany Browne (2020)
A collection of poems by women of color that reflects the passion of the fight for social justice while tackling subjects ranging from discrimination and empathy to acceptance and speaking out. F 55pgs
LEXILE: 850L
BUILDING KNOWLEDGE HISTORY TOPIC
ATHLETIC LEADERS OF SOCIAL CHANGE

**Baseball in April and Other Stories**
*By: Gary Soto (1990)*

The Mexican American author, Gary Soto, draws on his own experience of growing up in California's Central Valley in this finely crafted collection of eleven short stories that reveal big themes in the small events of daily life.  
**LEXILE: 830L**

**Between the Lines**
*By: Sandra Wallace (2018)*

Explores the life and career of notable African American sports artist and former professional football player, Ernie Barnes. Describes how Barnes overcame the obstacles of segregation in 1940s North Carolina to become an artist.  
**LEXILE: 660L**

**Girl Running**
*By: Anette Pimentel (2018)*

Because Bobbi Gibb is a girl, she’s not allowed to run on her school’s track team. But after school, no one can stop her - and she’s free to run endless miles to her heart’s content. She is told no yet again when she tries to enter the Boston Marathon in 1966 because the officials claim that it’s a man’s race and that women are just not capable of running such a long distance.  
**LEXILE: AD580L**

**Hank Aaron: Brave in Every Way**
*By: Peter Golenbock (2001)*

Before blacks were allowed in the major leagues, Hank was determined to play. On April 8, 1974, America watched as Hank Aaron stepped up to the plate and hit home run number 715!  
**LEXILE: 890L**

**Playing to Win**
*By: Carole Marsh (2004)*

Although stars like Serena Williams cite Althea Gibson as an inspiration, Gibson’s story is not well-known to many young people today. Growing up tough and rebellious in Harlem, Althea took that fighting attitude and used it to go after her goals of being a tennis champion. In 1956, she became the first Black American to win a major championship when she won at The French Open.  
**LEXILE: 890L**

**Silent Star**
*By: Andrea Pinkney (2021)*

William Hoy loved baseball. Growing up in the 1860s and ‘70s, he dreamed of one day playing in the major leagues. A far-off fantasy for many boys, fulfilling this dream was even more of a long shot for William, who was deaf.  
**LEXILE: 840L**
Sixteen Years in Sixteen Seconds
By: Paula Yoo (2005)
The inspirational true story of Sammy Lee, a Korean American who overcame discrimination to realize both his father’s desire that he become a doctor and his own dream of becoming an Olympic champion diver. NF 32pgs
LEXILE: AD880L

A Sporting Chance
By: Lori Alexander (2020)
Illustrated biography of Ludwig Guttmann, a Jewish doctor whose pioneering work with spinal cord injured patients eventually led to the creation of the Paralympic Games. Includes discussion of the history of how patients who had spinal cord injuries were treated, as well as profiles of famous Paralympic athletes. NF 114pgs
LEXILE: 960L

Surfer of the Century
By: Ellie Crowe (2007)
By his early twenties, Duke’s lightning-fast swimming won him a place on the 1912 United States Olympic team and a gold medal in the 100-meter freestyle race. Over the years Duke struggled with racism and financial troubles, but by the end of his twenty-year Olympic career, he was a six-time medal winner. NF 48pgs
LEXILE: 980L

Ten
By: Shamini Flint (2015)
In 1986 Malaysia, as she worries about her parents’ constant fighting, ardent soccer fan Maya, age eleven, trains herself and pulls together a team at her girls’ school, despite soccer being a “boys’ game.” F 155pgs
LEXILE: 770L

The United States v. Jackie Robinson
By: Sudipta Bardhan-Quallen (2018)
Jackie Robinson broke boundaries as the first African American player in Major League Baseball. But long before Jackie changed the world in a Dodger uniform, he did it in an army uniform. As a soldier during World War II, Jackie experienced segregation every day. NF 32pgs
LEXILE: 820L

We Are the Ship
By: Kadir Nelson (2008)
The story of Negro League baseball is the story of athletes and owners, of racial discrimination and international sportsmanship, of fortunes won and lost, and of triumphs and defeats on and off the field. But most of all, the story of the Negro Leagues is about heroes who overcame segregation to do one thing they loved more than anything else in the world: play ball. NF 88pgs
LEXILE: 900L
### BUILDING KNOWLEDGE HISTORY TOPIC

#### BREAKING BARRIERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Book Title</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Summary</th>
<th>Grade Level</th>
<th>pages</th>
<th>Lexile</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brown Girl Dreaming</td>
<td>Jacqueline Woodson (2014)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Raised in South Carolina and New York, Woodson always felt halfway home in each place. In vivid poems, she shares what it was like to grow up as an African American in the 1960s and 1970s, living with the remnants of Jim Crow and her growing awareness of the Civil Rights movement.</td>
<td>NF</td>
<td>336</td>
<td>900L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mandela</td>
<td>Floyd Cooper (1996)</td>
<td></td>
<td>This book captures the life of Nelson Mandela, born the son of a tribal chief, and one of the most prominent political figures of our time.</td>
<td>NF</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>950L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Night on Fire</td>
<td>Katherine Paterson (2019)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Thirteen-year-old Lora heeds the call of Fidel Castro that all teachers spread literacy to Cuba; and despite the objections of her parents, who’ve kept her in Havana her whole life, she takes off to remote Cuban communities to spread her knowledge.</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>830L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chef Roy Choi and the Street Food Remix</td>
<td>Jacqueline Martin (2017)</td>
<td></td>
<td>“Sohn maash” is the flavors in our fingertips. It is the love and cooking talent that Korean mothers and grandmothers mix into their handmade foods. For Chef Roy Choi, food means love. It also means culture, not only of Korea where he was born, but the many cultures that make up the streets of Los Angeles, where he was raised.</td>
<td>NF</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>710L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I Have a Dream</td>
<td>Martin Luther King, Jr. (1963)</td>
<td></td>
<td>On August 28, 1963, Martin Luther King gave one of the most powerful and memorable speeches in our nation’s history. His words and Kadir Nelson’s magnificent paintings make for a book that provides an important introduction to our nation’s past.</td>
<td>NF</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>1030L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Night on Fire</td>
<td>Diane Magras (2019)</td>
<td></td>
<td>When Billie hears about a group calling themselves the Freedom Riders passing through Anniston to protest segregation on buses, she thinks change could be coming. But instead of embracing change, Billie’s town responds with violence, and she finds herself at Forsyth &amp; Sons Grocery watching a bus burn.</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>288</td>
<td>600L</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**equipped:** Mississippi Book List for ALL
5th GRADE

The Watsons Go to Birmingham
By: Diane Magras (2019)
When the Watson family sets out on a trip south to visit Grandma in Birmingham, they don’t realize that they’re heading toward one of the darkest moments in America’s history. The Watsons’ journey reminds us that even in the hardest times, laughter and family can help us get through anything. F 210pgs
LEXILE: 920L

This Promise of Change
By: Tracey Mayhew (2020)
Tells the story of the Clinton 12, the first African American students to desegregate Clinton High School in 1956 Tennessee. One student in particular, Jo Ann Allen, was chosen to be a spokesperson for the group. Popular and eloquent, Jo Ann became a trailblazer of civil rights. NF 310pgs
LEXILE: 1000L

Shaking Things Up
By: Susan Hood (2018)
Fourteen inspiring young female rebels who broke down walls to pursue their interests, talents, and rights. NF 40pgs
LEXILE: N/A

P.S. Be Eleven
By: Rita Williams-Garcia (2013)
After spending the summer of 1968 with their mother, Delphine, Vonetta, and Fern return home to Brooklyn with a new feeling of independence, but they discover their father has a new girlfriend, Uncle Darnell has come home from Vietnam a changed man, and Big Ma still expects Delphine to take care of everything. F 274pgs
LEXILE: 770L

The Story of Ruby Bridges
By: Robert Coles (1995)
Six-year-old Ruby Bridges confronted the hostility of segregationists when she became the first African American girl to integrate to Frantz Elementary School in New Orleans in 1960. NF 30pgs
LEXILE: AD730L

When Marian Sang
By: Tracey Mayhew (2020)
Follow the life of Marian Anderson, extraordinary singer and the first African American to perform with the Metropolitan Opera, to see how her life and career brought about social change. NF 40pgs
LEXILE: 920L
**BUILDING KNOWLEDGE HISTORY TOPIC**

**COLONIAL AMERICA AND THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR**

### The Extraordinary Suzy Wright
**By: Teri Kanefield (2016)**

In an era when men were shaping the new world by settling the frontier and establishing an independent nation, the lives of many colonial women were largely forgotten. This book sheds light on the life of Suzy Wright, one extraordinary woman who helped settle the Pennsylvania frontier. **NF 64pgs**

**LEXILE: 1120L**

### Freedom’s Pen
**By: Wendy Lawton (2009)**

Phillis Wheatley was a little girl of seven or eight years old when she was captured in Africa and brought to America as a slave. She learned to read and write in English and Latin, and showed a natural gift for poetry. By the time she was twelve, her elegy at the death of the great pastor George Whitefield brought her worldwide acclaim. **F 135pgs**

**LEXILE: N/A**

### Fact and Fiction of the American Revolution
**By: Tammy Gagne**

This book explores the myths about the war fought between the patriots and the redcoats and brings the truth to light. But many popular stories about the American Revolution have gotten some facts wrong and left out others altogether. **NF 48pgs**

**LEXILE: N/A**

### A Spy Called James
**By: Anne Rockwell (2016)**

The story of James Armistead Lafayette, an American slave and spy whose information helped end the American Revolutionary War. After the war, he fought the Virginia General Assembly to gain his freedom. **NF 36pgs**

**LEXILE: 940L**

### Written in Bone
**By: Sally Walker (2019)**

Nine graves are detailed as the author uses current day forensic science to expose exciting conclusions about where the early settlers came from, and how they lived and died. Using subtle clues in bones, teeth and the surrounding dirt, Walker recreates the lives of colonial settlers. **NF 144pgs**

**LEXILE: NC1140L**

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equipped: [Mississippi Book List for ALL](#)
**BUILDING KNOWLEDGE HISTORY TOPIC**

**HUMAN RIGHTS**

**Every Human Has Rights**  
By: Mary Robinson (2009)  
According to the U.N., every human - just by virtue of being human - is entitled to freedom, a fair government, a decent standard of living, work, play, and education, freedom to come and go as we please and to associate with anyone we please, and the right to express ourselves freely.  
*NF 48pgs  
LEXILE: 880L*  

**Red Scarf Girl**  
By: Ji-li Jiang (1997)  
The author tells about the happy life she led in China until age twelve, when her family became a target of the Cultural Revolution, and discusses the choice she had to make between denouncing her father-and breaking with her family-or refusing to speak against him-and losing her future in the Communist Party.  
*NF 272pgs  
LEXILE: 780L*  

**Far From Home**  
By: Cath Senker (2017)  
Historical sources and first-hand accounts are used to explore racism, religion, life in refugee camps, and the challenges migrants and refugees face on arrival in new lands, alongside the response of host countries.  
*NF 40pgs  
LEXILE: AD630L*  

**Stormy Seas**  
By: Mary Beth Leatherdale (2017)  
This book presents five true stories about young people who lived through the harrowing experience of setting sail in search of asylum.  
*NF 64pgs  
LEXILE: 890L*  

**Inside Out and Back Again**  
By: Thanhha Lai (2011)  
In free-verse poems, ten-year-old Hà details her life in 1975 when her family leaves war-torn Vietnam to settle in Alabama. Her honest perspective makes her a memorable and powerful character.  
*F 288pgs  
LEXILE: 800L*  

**A Story Like the Wind**  
By: Gill Lewis (2018)  
Rami is in a small dinghy filled with strangers, all of them refugees seeking a safe harbor. But with no motor, no oars, and a rising tide, their situation looks bleak.  
*F 80pgs  
LEXILE: 750L*
Before Columbus
By: Charles Mann (2009)
Contrary to what many Americans learn in school, the pre-Columbian Indians were not sparsely settled in a pristine wilderness; rather, they actively molded and influenced the land around them in ways that we are only now beginning to understand. NF 116pgs
LEXILE: NC1080L

How I Became a Ghost
By: Tim Tingle (2015)
A Choctaw boy tells the story of his tribe’s removal from their Mississippi homeland, and how their exodus to the American West led him to become a ghost - one able to help those left behind. F 160pgs
LEXILE: HL480L

Grenade
By: Alan Gratz (2018)
On April 1, 1945, with the battle of Okinawa beginning, native Okinawan Hideki, drafted into the Blood and Iron Student Corps, is handed two grenades and told to kill American soldiers. His struggle across the island will finally bring him face-to-face with a marine in his very first battle, and the choice he makes then will change his life forever. F 270pgs
LEXILE: 760L

In the Footsteps of Crazy Horse
Jimmy McClean is a Lakota boy - though you wouldn’t guess it by his name: his father is part white and part Lakota, and his mother is Lakota. When he embarks on a journey with his grandfather, Nyles High Eagle, he learns more and more about his Lakota heritage. F 176pgs
LEXILE: 620L

Heart of a Chief
By: Josephn Bruchac (1998)
An eleven-year-old Penacook Indian boy living on a reservation faces his father’s alcoholism, a controversy surrounding plans for a casino on a tribal island, and insensitivity toward Native Americans in his school and nearby town. F 153pgs
LEXILE: 750L

Indian No More
By: Charlene McManis (2019)
After her father signs up for the Indian Relocation Program and uproots the family to Los Angeles, twelve-year-old Regina Petit struggles to make sense of life off the reservation, the racism she discovers in her diverse neighborhood, and her identity as an Umpqua native. F 211pgs
LEXILE: 720L
Indian Shoes
By: Cynthia Leitich Smith (2021)
Ray Halfmoon prefers hightops, but he gladly trades them for a nice pair of moccasins for his grampa. After all, it’s Grampa Halfmoon who’s always there to help Ray get in and out of scrapes - like the time they teamed up to pet sit for the whole block during a holiday blizzard! F 66pgs
LEXILE: 820L

Native American Heroes
By: Ann McGovern (2013)
Osceola, Cochise, and Tecumseh are three Native American heroes who fought valiantly for their land and for their people. This book recounts each life while focusing on delicate topics such as violence and racism.
NF 120pgs
LEXILE: 840L

Rain is Not My Indian Name
By: Calvin Ramsey (2010)
Tired of staying in seclusion since the death of her best friend, a fourteen-year-old Native American girl takes on a photographic assignment with her local newspaper to cover events at the Native American summer youth camp. F 135pgs
LEXILE: 860L

Turtle Island
By: Eldon Yellowhorn (2017)
Native storytellers are paired with comic creators to tell these traditional stories in a graphic-novel format. The trickster is presented in a variety of forms, from Coyote to Raven to Rabbit, and incorporates Native American themes and events, and is linked to the culture’s spirituality.
F 248pgs
LEXILE: 1040L

Two Roads
By: Joseph Bruchac (2019)
In 1932, twelve-year-old Cal must stop being a hobo with his father and go to a Bureau of Indian Affairs boarding school, where he begins learning about his history and heritage as a Creek Indian.
F 318pgs
LEXILE: 740L
**BUILDING KNOWLEDGE HISTORY TOPIC**

**THE RENAISSANCE**

**Leonardo da Vinci**  
By: Tammy Enz (2019)  
Discover the ways that imagination, curiosity, and courage made Leonardo da Vinci into the painter, dreamer, and inventor that the world remembers today.  
NF 128pgs  
LEXILE: N/A

**Michelangelo**  
By: Diane Stanley (2000)  
Michelangelo had a turbulent, quarrelsome life. He was obsessed with perfection, and his long and difficult association with Pope Julius II yielded his greatest masterpiece, the radiant paintings in the Sistine Chapel.  
NF 48pgs  
LEXILE: 1080L

**The Shakespeare Stealer**  
By: Gary Blackwood (2000)  
Widge is an orphan with a rare talent for shorthand. His fearsome master has just one demand: steal Shakespeare’s play “Hamlet”.  
Widge has no choice but to follow orders, so he works his way into the heart of the Globe Theatre, where Shakespeare’s players perform.  
F 216pgs  
LEXILE: 840L

**The Siege**  
By: Stephen Shapiro (2007)  
A composite of several historic battles, The Siege takes readers inside the walls of a besieged community and also behind the battle lines with the attackers.  
Readers will march with the advancing army and learn the staggering logistics of keeping it fed.  
NF 56pgs  
LEXILE: N/A

**The Renaissance Explorers**  
By: Alicia Klepeis (2018)  
Profiles five famous Renaissance-era explorers - Niccolò de’ Conti, Bartolomeu Dias, Vasco da Gama, Pêro da Covilhã, and Ferdinand Magellan.  
NF 106pgs  
LEXILE: 960L

**Thérèse Makes a Tapestry**  
By: Alexandra Hinrichs (2015)  
A young girl named Therese lives near the Gobelins Manufactory where her family works to make tapestries for King Louis XIV.  
Her papa, an artist, travels with the king as his court painter.  
While away, Therese works on a tapestry her papa; however, she is surprised when the king sees her gift and requests it for his new palace at Versailles.  
F 36pgs  
LEXILE: 740L
BUILDING KNOWLEDGE STEAM TOPIC
ASTRONOMY

Astronauts: Women on the Final Frontier
By: Jim Ottaviani (2020)
The U.S. may have put the first man on the moon, but it was the Soviet space program that made Valentina Tereshkova the first woman in space. It took years to catch up, but soon NASA's first female astronauts were racing past milestones of their own. NF 157pgs
LEXILE: GN590L

Curiosity: The Story of the Mars Rover
By: Markus Motum (2018)
On August 6, 2012, the rover Curiosity touched down on the rocky surface of Mars and now she's ready to guide you through her journey firsthand. From idea to creation and beyond, this book introduces readers to Curiosity and her mission: to discover more about the red planet and search for evidence of life. NF 50pgs
LEXILE: 970L

A Child's Introduction to the Night Sky
By: Michael Driscol (2004)
Provides children with a broad introduction to astronomy discussing stars, planets, solar and lunar eclipses, the phases of the moon, comets, black holes, and constellations and their myths. Also covers space exploration. NF 93pgs
LEXILE: NC1120L

Starstruck
By: Kathleen Krull (2018)
Young Neil deGrasse Tyson was starstruck when he first visited the sky theater at the Hayden Planetarium in New York City. He couldn't believe the crowded, glittering night sky at the planetarium was real - until a visit to the country years later revealed the impossible. That discovery was like rocket fuel for Neil's passion about space. NF 42pgs
LEXILE: 870L

Counting on Katherine
By: Helaine Becker (2018)
Chronicles her early life as a gifted student, to her unlikely rise and subsequent prominent contributions to NASA's development, including her critical calculations that helped save the crew of the infamous Apollo 13 flight, and laying the trajectory groundwork for the space shuttle. NF 34pgs
LEXILE: 710L

We’re the Center of the Universe
By: Christine Zucora-Walske (2015)
At one time, science supported such wild notions! But later studies proved these ideas were nonsense. Discover science's biggest mistakes and oddest assumptions about physics and astronomy, and see how scientific thought changed over time. NF 32pgs
LEXILE: 800L

equipped: Mississippi Book List for ALL
BUILDING KNOWLEDGE STEAM TOPIC
CONSERVATION OF EARTH’S RESOURCES

Ada’s Violin
By: Susan Hood (2016)
Tells the true tale of an orchestra made up of children playing instruments built from recycled trash called the ‘Recycled Orchestra of Paraguay.’ NF 40pgs
LEXILE: 820L

If Sharks Disappeared
By: Lily Williams (2017)
Even though sharks can be scary, we need them to keep the oceans healthy. Unfortunately, due to overfishing, many shark species are in danger of extinction, and that can cause big problems in the oceans and even on land. NF 34pgs
LEXILE: AD830L

Back From the Brink
By: Nancy Castaldo (2018)
Seven species of threatened animals have been brought back from the brink of extinction due to the successful efforts of scientists. NF 168pgs
LEXILE: N/A

The Leaf Detective
By: Heather Lang (2021)
Meg Lowman was always fascinated by the natural world above her head — the colors, the branches, and, most of all, the leaves and mysterious organisms living there. She set out to be the first scientist to investigate the rain forest tree canopies. NF 48pgs
LEXILE: 860L

The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind
By: William Kamkwamba (2012)
William Kamkwamba details how he ignored naysayers and was able to bring electricity and running water to his desperately poor village in Africa when he built a makeshift windmill out of scrap metal and spare parts. (Picture book edition) NF 32pgs
LEXILE: 850L

Plastic: Past, Present, and Future
By: Eun-Ju Kim (2020)
Details the history of plastic use, how it is beneficial in society, and how plastic pollution has become a problem in the environment. Offers tips for reducing plastic waste. NF 40pgs
LEXILE: 970L
BUILDING KNOWLEDGE STEAM TOPIC

PLANT STRUCTURES

Can You Hear the Trees Talking?
By: Peter Wohlleben (2019)

Presents the argument that trees have a kind of social life, even family life as parent trees live near to their children, communicate in different ways, share nutrients, and perhaps even have ways of warning other trees of danger. NF 78pgs

LEXILE: 900L

Ninja Plants
By: Wiley Belvins (2017)

What can communicate but has no mouth, and can attack but has no hands? A plant! You might love the beauty and fragrance of flowers, but plants are far more complex than meets the eye. NF 96pgs

LEXILE: 1100L

A Forest in the City
By: Andrea Curtis (2020)

This book of narrative non-fiction looks at the urban forest, starting with a bird’s-eye view of the tree canopy, then swooping down to street level, digging deep into the ground, then moving up through a tree’s trunk, and back into the leaves and branches. NF 48pgs

LEXILE: 1140L

The Secret Life of Trees
By: Moira Butterfield (2020)

Take in the knowledge and wisdom of a wise old oak tree as he shares with beautiful illustrations, science facts, and folk tales what he has learned in his 500 years on earth. NF 47pgs

LEXILE: 800L

Forest Talk
By: Melissa Koch (2019)

Trees are essential. They provide water, shelter, and food for millions of plant and animal species, including humans. Yet trees are in trouble. Forests are struggling to adapt to climate change, and deforestation is a major threat. NF 96pgs

LEXILE: 10800L

Trees, Leaves, Flowers, and Seeds
By: Sarah Joe (2018)

Explore the incredible world of plants, from the smallest seeds to the tallest trees. Find out about the weirdest, smelliest, and deadliest flowers. Which plants eat insects? How do cacti store water? What flower looks like a bee? Where is the tallest tree in the world? NF 192pgs

LEXILE: IG1080L
### BUILDING KNOWLEDGE SOCIAL EMOTIONAL TOPIC

#### SELF-AWARENESS

**As Brave as You Are**  
By: Jason Reynolds (2016)  
Two brothers, Genie and Ernie, leave New York to spend a summer with their blind grandfather.  
F 224pgs  
LEXILE: 750L

**Fish in a Tree**  
By: Lynda Hunt (2015)  
Ally has been smart enough to fool a lot of smart people. Every time she lands in a new school, she is able to hide her inability to read by creating clever yet disruptive distractions. She is afraid to ask for help; after all, how can you cure dumb?  
F 276pgs  
LEXILE: 550L

**The Other Half of My Heart**  
By: Sundee Frazier (2010)  
Twin eleven-year-olds, Keira and Minna, have very different skin tones and personalities, but it is not until their grandmother enters them in the beauty competition in North Carolina that Minna realizes what life in their small town has been like for her sister.  
F 296pgs  
LEXILE: 750L

**Wonder**  
By: R.J. Palacio (2012)  
Auggie wants nothing more than to be treated as an ordinary kid - but his classmates can’t get past his face. Wonder begins from Auggie’s point of view but soon switches to include others; these perspectives converge in a portrait of one community’s struggle with empathy, compassion, and acceptance.  
F 310pgs  
LEXILE: 790L

**So B. It**  
By: Sarah Weeks (2004)  
She doesn’t know when her birthday is or who her father is. In fact, everything about Heidi and her mentally disabled mother’s past is a mystery. When a strange word in her mother’s vocabulary begins to haunt her, Heidi sets out on a cross-country journey in search of the secrets of her past.  
F 245pgs  
LEXILE: 860L

**Restart**  
By: Gordon Korman (2018)  
After falling off a roof, Chase Ambrose suffers from amnesia, leaving him with no memory of his past. When he returns to school, he begins to realize he was not just a bully - he was the biggest bully in his school. Now he hopes to shake his old reputation and rebuild a new one.  
F 243pgs  
LEXILE: 730L
The Leanin’ Dog
By: K.A. Nuzum (2008)
More than anything, Dessa Dean needed a friend. A friend with whom she could share her heart. Then there came a scratchin’ at the door and Dessa Dean’s life was forever changed. This is the story of a girl, a dog, and the friendship that saves them both.
F 250pgs
LEXILE: 960L

Before They Were Authors
By: Elizabeth Haidle (2019)
What makes a writer? What inspires them? Where do their stories come from? Featuring beloved authors such as Maya Angelou, C.S. Lewis, Gene Luen Yang and J.K. Rowling, these stories capture the childhood triumphs, failures, and inspirations that predated their careers.
NF 64pgs
LEXILE: N/A

The Blossoming Universe of Violet Diamond
By: Brenda Woods (2015)
A biracial girl finally gets the chance to meet the African American side of her family.
F 222pgs
LEXILE: 670L

The Care and Feeding of a Pet Black Hole
By: Michelle Cuevas (2017)
A black hole follows eleven-year-old Stella Rodriguez home from NASA and tries to live with her as a pet, and Stella isn’t sure if she should keep it, as the black hole swallows everything it touches. Then, Stella learns she can use the black hole to swallow items that remind her of her recently deceased father, a loss that broke her heart.
F 41pgs
LEXILE: AD770L

A Circle of Elephants
By: Eric Dinerstein (2019)
Nandu and the Royal Elephant Breeding Center’s bull elephant, Hira Prasad, develop a special relationship as they work together to maintain balance in the Borderlands of 1970s Nepal.
F 266pgs
LEXILE: N/A

El Deafo
By: Cece Bell (2014)
This graphic novel focuses on the hearing loss of one young girl. El Deafo is her super alter ego that helps her understand that differences can also be superpowers.
NF 248pgs
LEXILE: GN420L
Marsh and Me
By: Martine Murray (2019)
It’s a world that hides secrets but might also be the very thing to bring Joey out of his shell. And when Joey decides to follow Marsh home, her real life is not what he expected. But there he finds that they have music in common, and he realizes that no distance is so great that music cannot bridge.  F 168pgs
LEXILE: 680L

Martin and Anne
By: Nancy Churnin (2019)
Anne Frank and Martin Luther King, Jr. were born the same year a world apart. Both faced ugly prejudices and violence, which both answered with words of love and faith in humanity. This is the story of their parallel journeys to find hope in darkness and to follow their dreams.  NF 30pgs
LEXILE: AD800L

One Last Shot
By: John David Anderson (2020)
For as long as he can remember, Malcolm has never felt like he was good enough. Not for his parents, who have always seemed at odds with each other, with Malcolm caught in between. And especially not for his dad, whose competitive drive and love for sports Malcolm has never shared.  F 321pgs
LEXILE: 680L

Rain Reign
By: Ann M. Martin (2020)
Struggling with Asperger’s syndrome, Rose shares a bond with her beloved dog, but when the dog goes missing during a storm, Rose is forced to confront the limits of her comfort levels, even if it means leaving her routines in order to search for her pet.  F 226pgs
LEXILE: 720L

The Sea in Winter
By: Christine Day (2021)
After an injury sidelines her dreams of becoming a ballet star, Maisie is not excited for her family’s midwinter road trip along the coast, near the Makah community where her mother grew up.  F 250pgs
LEXILE: N/A

Tin
By: Padraig Kenny (2019)
Christopher is ‘Proper’: a real boy with a real soul, orphaned in a fire. He works for an engineer, a maker of the eccentric, loyal and totally individual mechanicals who are Christopher’s best friends. But after a devastating accident, a secret is revealed and Christopher’s world is changed forever.  F 275pgs
LEXILE: 730L
BUILDING KNOWLEDGE SOCIAL EMOTIONAL TOPIC
SOCIAL AWARENESS

Class Act
By: Jerry Craft (2020)
Drew Ellis recognizes that he isn’t afforded the same opportunities, no matter how hard he works, that his privileged classmates at the Riverdale Academy Day School take for granted, and to make matters worse, Drew begins to feel as if his good friend Liam might be one of those privileged kids. F 249pgs
LEXILE: N/A

Front Desk
By: Kelly Yang (2018)
Mia Tang and her immigrant parents are not exactly living the American dream since moving here from China - they live in the Calivista Motel, and Mia must tend to its guests. Her parents, meanwhile, have been hiding illegal immigrants in the motel’s empty rooms, risking the wrath of the owner, Mr. Yao. F 286pgs
LEXILE: 640L

Crenshaw
By: Katherine Applegate (2017)
A gentle reminder of a child’s resilience that can soften difficult situations through imagination and truth. F 272pgs
LEXILE: 540L

Gandhi: A March to the Sea
By: Alice McGinty (2013)
Recounts the March to the Sea, in which, Mohandas Gandhi and seventy protesters marched from Ahmedabad to Dandi, in twenty-four days, to protest the laws and taxes that Great Britain put on salt. NF 40pgs
LEXILE: 880L

The Distance Between Us
By: Reyna Grande (2017)
At the age of 8, Reyna Grande made the dangerous and illegal trek across the border from Mexico to the United States, and discovered that the American Dream is much more complicated than it seemed. NF 322pgs
LEXILE: 780L

How to Steal a Dog
By: Barbara O’Connor (2007)
Georgina is homeless and living out of a car, so she plans an elaborate scheme to kidnap a dog in order to get the reward money. What happens next is the last thing she expected. F 192pgs
LEXILE: 700L
Midnight Without a Moon  
By: Linda Jackson (2017)  
Rose Lee Carter dreams of life beyond the Mississippi cotton fields during the summer of 1955, but when Emmett Till is murdered and his killers are unjustly acquitted, Rose is torn between seeking her destiny or staying and being a part of an important movement.  
**LEXILE: 870L**  

The Summer of Swans  
By: Betsy Byars (1970)  
Sara’s adolescent pains and problems seem to fade when her mentally handicapped brother, Charlie, disappears into the night.  
**LEXILE: 830L**

My Life as an Ice Cream Sandwich  
By: Ibi Zoboi (2020)  
In the summer of 1984, twelve-year-old Ebony-Grace of Huntsville, Alabama, visits her father in Harlem, where her fascination with outer space and science fiction interfere with her finding acceptance.  
**LEXILE: 830L**

They Call Me Guero  
By: David Bowles (2021)  
Twelve-year-old Guero, a red-headed, freckled Mexican American border kid, discovers the joy of writing poetry, thanks to his seventh grade English teacher.  
**LEXILE: 850L**

Sounder  
By: William Armstrong (1969)  
Sounder details the life of an unnamed, African-American boy living in the south during the Depression. When hard times fall on the family, the boy must be courageous and overcome major adversities.  
**LEXILE: 900L**

When You Trap a Tiger  
By: Tae Keller (2020)  
When Lily and her family move in with her sick grandmother, a magical tiger straight out of her halmoni’s Korean folktales arrives, prompting Lily to unravel a secret family history.  
**LEXILE: 590L**
Across the Pond
By: Joy McCullough (2021)
Callie can’t wait for her new life to start. After a major friendship breakup in San Diego, moving overseas to Scotland gives her the perfect chance to reinvent herself. On top of that, she’s going to live in a real-life castle! F 280pgs
LEXILE: 800L

The Distance Between Me and the Cherry Tree
By: Paola Peretti (2019)
When nine-year-old Mafalda learns she will go blind in six months from Stargardt Disease, she needs the help of family and friends to retain what is essential to her. F 215pgs
LEXILE: 740L

Because of Mr. Terupt
By: Rob Buyea (2010)
It’s the start of a new year at Snow Hill School, and seven students find themselves thrown together in Mr. Terupt’s fifth-grade class. F 269pgs
LEXILE: 560L

Love Double Dutch!
By: Doreen Spicer-Dannelly (2018)
MaKayla can only think about one thing - taking her double Dutch team all the way to the National Jump-off. That is, until her mother breaks the news. Kayla has to spend the summer at her aunt’s house in North Carolina while her parents work out their problems or decide to call it quits. F 247pgs
LEXILE: 600L

Before the Ever After
By: Jacqueline Woodson (2020)
For as long as ZJ can remember, his dad has been everyone’s hero. But lately life at ZJ’s house is anything but charming. His dad is having trouble remembering things and seems to be angry all the time. ZJ’s mom explains it’s because of all the head injuries his dad sustained during his career. F 164pgs
LEXILE: N/A

Stef Soto, Taco Queen
By: Cynthia Kadohata (2010)
Mexican-American Stef Soto is hoping to break free from her overprotective parents and embarrassing reputation from her family’s taco truck business, but she soon learns that family, friendship, and the taco truck are important and wonderful parts of her life. F 166pgs
LEXILE: 780L
Strange Birds
By: Celia C. Pérez (2020)

When three very different girls find a mysterious invitation to a lavish mansion, the promise of adventure and mischief is too intriguing to pass up. In their quest for justice, independence, and an unforgettable summer, the girls form their own troop and find something they didn’t know they needed: sisterhood. F 285pgs
LEXILE: 750L

Tornado Brain
By: Cat Patrick (2021)

Thirteen-year-old Frankie is neurodivergent: she can’t stand to be touched, loud noises bother her, she’s easily distracted, and hates changes to her routine. It also means that she doesn’t have a lot of friends. F 286pgs
LEXILE: N/A

War is Over
By: David Almond (2020)

It’s 1918, and war is everywhere. John’s father is fighting in the trenches far away in France, while his mother works in a menacing munitions factory just along the road. His teacher says that John is fighting, too, that he is at war with enemy children in Germany. F 115pgs
LEXILE: N/A

Wonderland
By: Barbara O’Connor (2018)

When her mother uproots them again to another home and takes a job as housekeeper, ten-year-old Mavis is determined to find a best friend in Landry, Alabama, where the summer also holds the promise of friendship and change for a sad man, a stray dog, and a timid girl. F 282pgs
LEXILE: N/A

You Go First
By: Erin Kelly (2018)

Charlotte, twelve, and Ben, eleven, are highly-skilled competitors at online Scrabble and that connection helps both as they face family issues and the turmoil of middle school. F 288pgs
LEXILE: 540L
BUILDING KNOWLEDGE SOCIAL EMOTIONAL TOPIC
RESPONSIBLE DECISION-MAKING SKILLS

Better You Than Me
By: Jessica Brody (2020)
Ruby Rivera is a twelve-year-old superstar with millions of followers. Skylar Welshman is a seventh grader who wants to be cool - and she's Ruby's biggest fan. When Skylar and Ruby meet on the set of Ruby's hit show, Ruby of the Lamp, and wish they could switch places - it happens! F 424pgs
LEXILE: 650L

Malala: Activist for Girls’ Education
By: Raphaele Frier (2017)
Malala Yousafzai stood up to the Taliban and fought for the right for all girls to receive an education. At age eighteen, Malala became the youngest person to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for her work to ensure the education of all children around the world. NF 45pgs
LEXILE: 840L

The Juvie Three
By: Gordon Korman (2017)
All three boys are serving time in juvenile detention centers until they get a second chance. Douglas Healy, a former juvenile delinquent himself, is running an experimental halfway house in New York City, where he wants to make a difference in the lives of kids like Gecko, Terence, and Arjay. F 228pgs
LEXILE: NC730L

Resist
By: Veronica Chambers (2020)
Before they were activists, they were just like you and me. From Frederick Douglass to Malala Yousafzai, Joan of Arc to John Lewis, Susan B. Anthony to Janet Mock - these remarkable figures show us what it means to take a stand and say no to injustice, even when it would be far easier to stay quiet. NF 239pgs
LEXILE: N/A

Little Leaders: Bold Women in Black History
By: Vashti Harrison (2017)
This book educates and inspires as it relates true stories of forty trailblazing black women in American history. NF 88pgs
LEXILE: 1050L

Sidekicked
By: John David Anderson (2013)
Thirteen-year-old Andrew “The Sensationalist” Bean is a sidekick-in-training at the prominent H.E.R.O. academy. His mentor, the world-famous Titan, should be the model Andrew one day hopes to emulate; unfortunately, Andrew is often left to ward off foes on his own. F 373pgs
LEXILE: 830L
appendix a
TEXT SETS
CREATING TEXT SETS

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 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

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?
## 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Text or Resource Description</th>
<th>Resource Type</th>
<th>Genre</th>
<th>Lexile (if applicable)</th>
<th>Available in multilingual format?</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>4</td>
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1 If Lexile is unavailable, consider using a tool like [https://hub.lexile.com/analyze](https://hub.lexile.com/analyze) to get an estimated Lexile level.

2 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.

3 Note if resource is available in any other language(s), including closed captioning or translated version(s).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Text or Resource Description</th>
<th>Resource Type</th>
<th>Genre</th>
<th>Lexile (if applicable)</th>
<th>On grade level?</th>
<th>Available in multilingual format?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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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
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.

CLOSE READING (Grades K - 5)
achievethe-core.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.

NOVEL STUDY (Grades 2 - 5)
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
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
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BOOK TITLE</th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AUTHOR</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRADE LEVEL</td>
<td>THEME/TOPIC</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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, Multilingual Format, Graphic Novel Format, and Digital Format

   - 1: One additional factor
   - 2: Two additional factors
   - 3: Three additional factors
   - 4: Four additional factors
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1</th>
<th>The library contains multiple books that include…</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Non-human, anthropomorphic main characters (e.g., talking animals, talking trucks, talking vegetables, imaginary or science fiction creatures, etc.)</td>
<td>Strongly Agree</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2</th>
<th>The library contains numerous books that include…</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Main characters of color or different nationality/ethnicity</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Main characters with different types of gender identity and gender expression</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A range of family structures and family configurations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Different socioeconomic backgrounds</td>
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<tr>
<td>Religious diversity</td>
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<tr>
<td>Main characters with disabilities</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>3</th>
<th>The library contains numerous books that…</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Are written or illustrated by a person of color or of different nationality/ethnicity</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Are set in a different country or geographic setting (urban, rural, suburban) during the present time</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teach about immigration to the United States beyond the Ellis Island-narrative</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teach about Black/African-American contributions to the United States beyond the Civil Rights Movement</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feature diversity throughout the year, not just in heritage and observance months (e.g., Black History Month, Native American History Month)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
### 4. The majority of books featuring people of color or different nationality/ethnicity people...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Neither</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Are only about issues of race, prejudice, or discrimination</td>
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<tr>
<td>Are only culturally specific (e.g., flags, food, festivals)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Are only culturally neutral or contain incidental diversity</td>
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<td>Are non-authentic stories about a group of people</td>
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<td>Contain harmful stereotypes or discriminatory content about a group of people</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contain inaccurate/outdated information or makes generalizations about a group of people</td>
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### 5. The library contains multiple books that support...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Standard</th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Neither</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MS CCR English Standards</td>
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<tr>
<td>MS CCR Social Studies Standards</td>
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<tr>
<td>MS CCR Science Standards</td>
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<tr>
<td>MS CCR Social Emotional Standards</td>
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</table>

### 6. The library reflects...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Neither</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The diversity of my students and the community in which we live (e.g., gender, race, family structure, language, culture, socioeconomic background, etc.)</td>
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appendix e

RESOURCES TO SUPPORT STUDENT READING
**BOOK INFORMATION AND SUPPORT MATERIALS**

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

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

- **Reading is Fundamental Educator Resources** (Grades K - 12)  
  [www.rif.org/literacy-central/educators](www.rif.org/literacy-central/educators)
  
  Online support materials aligned to hundreds of children’s book titles and much more.

- **Teaching Books** (Grades K - 12)  
  [www.teachingbooks.net](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
Beanbright helps facilitate reading challenges and gain more data on students’ free-choice reading.

Reading is Fundamental Reading Tracker  
(Grades K - 8)  
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.al.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

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 Analyzer** *(Grades K - 12)*  
hub.lexile.com/analyzer

The Lexile Analyzer allows you to paste or type in text to receive a Lexile range and view text characteristics along with challenging words and their definitions. English and Spanish texts can be measured using this tool.

**Lexile by Chapter Guides** *(Grades K - 12)*  

Just as 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)*  

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

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

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

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.