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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:

- Jasmine Bell
- Limuel Eubanks
- Jen Cornett
- Kevin Gaylor, Ed.D.
- Sandra Elliott
- Melanie Watkins

We would also like to extend thanks to public school counselors who helped with the Social Emotional Learning review and the selection of titles to support SEL. We would like to thank parents, including foster parents, who reviewed for appropriateness and who suggested additional titles for consideration. Lastly, we would like to thank the various groups of Mississippi public school teachers, librarians, and administrators who assisted us in both rating and identifying the titles chosen for this list and for providing feedback throughout the development process.

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 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 book list 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 book list 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 book list, 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](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/uploadSupporting%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.
understanding the book list:

**BUILDING KNOWLEDGE ART TOPIC**

**ART AND ARTISTS**

**Book Title**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Building Knowledge Topic</th>
<th>Book Title</th>
<th>Author (Publication Date)</th>
<th>Grade Level(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ART AND ARTISTS</td>
<td>Action Jackson</td>
<td>By: Jan Greenberg (2002)</td>
<td>2nd GRADE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Drawn Together</td>
<td>By: Minh Le (2018)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Book Cover**

**Lexile Level**

- Action Jackson: LEXILE: 750L 📚 📚
- Drawn Together: LEXILE: AD310L 📚 📚

**Short Description**

- Action Jackson: Imagines Jackson Pollock at work during the creation of one of his paint-swirled and splattered canvases. NF 32 pgs.
- Drawn Together: 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—when a shared love of art and storytelling, the two form a bond that goes beyond words. P 34 pgs.

**Rubric Components**

1. **DIGITAL FORMAT:** a book that is available as an audiobook or an ebook
2. **FICTION:** literature that describes imaginary events and people
3. **GRAPHIC FORMAT:** a book written in comic-strip format, illustrated features, or a wordless picture book
4. **LEXILE (L):** a measurement of the reading level of a text
5. **MULTILINGUAL:** a book that is available in multiple languages
6. **NONFICTION:** writing that is based on facts, real events or people, such as biography or history
7. **AD – ADULT DIRECTED:** Better when read aloud to a student rather than having the student read independently
8. **GN – GRAPHIC NOVEL:** Graphic novels or comic books
9. **HL – HIGH-LOW:** Content to engage older students who need materials that are less complex and at a lower reading level
10. **IG – ILLUSTRATED GUIDE:** Nonfiction materials often used for reference
11. **N/A – NOT AVAILABLE:** Lexile level has not been assigned to the text
12. **NC – NON-CONFORMING:** Good for high-ability readers who still need age-appropriate content

**GLOSSARY OF TERMS**

- **LEGEND**
  - Award Winner
  - Digital Format Available
  - Graphic Format: Wordless Picture Books, Graphic or Illustrated Guide
  - Multilingual Available

**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
K-1st GRADE

book list:
BUILDING KNOWLEDGE ENGLISH LANGUAGE TOPIC
FAIRYTALES AND NURSERY RHYMES

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

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

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

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 Nklwcz build a home safe enough to withstand the Big Bad Robot in this story reminiscent of “The Three Little Pigs.” F 32pgs
LEXILE: AD590L

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

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

equipped: Mississippi Book List for ALL
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

Daniel Finds a Poem  
By: Micha Archer (2016)  
What is poetry? Is it crisp leaves crunching? 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

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

Friends and Foes: Poems About Us All  
By: Douglas Florian (2018)  
Honest and humorous poems explore the many kinds of friends - new and old, good friends, bad friends, and imaginary ones too.  
**F 32pgs**  
LEXILE: 460L

Thinker: My Puppy Poet and Me  
By: Eloise Greenfiled (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

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 friends - new and old, good friends, bad friends, and imaginary ones too.  
**F 32pgs**  
LEXILE: 460L
BUILDING KNOWLEDGE HISTORY 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

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

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

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

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

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
**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

**American Symbols**  
By: Maria Koran (2020)  
This nonfiction books provides text and photographs that introduces children to the symbols and landmarks that have defined America.  
**NF** 24pgs  
**LEXILE:** N/A

**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

**Hard Work, But It’s Worth It**  
By: Bethany Hegedus (2020)  
A picture book introduction to the life and work of Jimmy Carter, describing his childhood, political career, and work with Habitat for Humanity.  
**NF** 40pgs  
**LEXILE:** N/A

**Lights On!**  
By: Cynthia Becker (2017)  
Nineteen-year-old Ike Hoover was sent to the White House in 1891 by the Edison Electric Company to assist in the wiring for electric lights. President Benjamin Harrison and his wife were afraid of electricity, so Ike was asked to stick around to make the transition to electric lights easier.  
**NF** 32pgs  
**LEXILE:** N/A
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

Seven and Half Tons of Steel
By: Janet Nolan (2016)

Following the events of September 11, 2001, a beam from the World Trade Center Towers was given to the United States Navy. The beam was driven from New York to a foundry in Louisiana, where the seven and a half tons of steel became a navy ship’s bow. NF 34pgs
LEXILE: AD820L

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 HISTORY 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 History 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**

**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**

**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**

**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**

**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**

**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 HISTORY 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 HISTORY 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 📚 📚 📚

**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 📚 📚 📚

**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 📚 📚 📚

**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 📚 📚 📚
**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 HISTORY TOPIC

**GEOGRAPHY AND LANDFORMS**

#### Canyons
**By:** Lisa Amstutz (2021)
Readers can explore the features, formation, and location of canyons, and learn about the different types of canyons.  
**NF 24pgs**  
**LEXILE:** 490L

#### Landforms
**By:** Mary Lindeen (2018)
This nonfiction book introduces readers to different landforms around the world, such as volcanoes, river gorges, and mountains.  
**NF 32pgs**  
**LEXILE:** 450L

#### 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

#### 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 You Lived Here: Houses 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

#### 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 HISTORY TOPIC
LATINO CIVILIZATIONS AND CULTURES

**The Chocolate Tree: A Mayan Folklore**
By: Linda Lowery (2009)
Retells the legend of Mayan king Kukulkan, 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 📚 📚

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 📚 📚

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 📚 📚

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 📚 📚

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 📚

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 HISTORY 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

**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

**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

**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

**We Came to America**
By: Faith Ringgold (2016)
Celebrates United States immigration and the country’s diverse immigrant heritage.
F 32pgs
LEXILE: AD430L

**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

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LEXILE: NP
BUILDING KNOWLEDGE HISTORY 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

**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

**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

**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 STEAM TOPIC
ANIMALS: ADAPTATIONS, PHYSICAL FEATURES, AND SENSES

Bee Dance
By: Rick Chrustowski (2015)
A honeybee searches for nectar, then returns to the hive to tell the other bees. She does a waggle dance, moving in a special figure-eight pattern to share the location of the foodsource with her hivemates. NF 32pgs
LEXILE: AD440L

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

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

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*  

**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*  

**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*
Green Machine
By: Rebeca 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

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 families everywhere with a gently sweet and humorous missive about our world and those who call it home. F 48pgs
LEXILE: AD530L

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

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

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
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

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

Running on 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 or how in the future tiny solar chips will be placed in eyes to help a blind person see. NF 37pgs
LEXILE: N/A

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

Solar Story
By: Allan Drummond (2020)
Students visit the local plant during a field trip. The plant not only brings reliable power to the village and far beyond, but is provides jobs, changes lives, and upends the old ways of doing things - starting within the girl’s own family. NF 32pgs
LEXILE: AD820L

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 STEAM TOPIC
ELEMENTS OF DANCE AND MUSIC

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

Guitar Genius
By: Kim Tomsci (2019)
Lester’s piano teacher sent him home with a note saying that Lester would never learn music, so his parents should save money and stop sending him to lessons. His mother encouraged him to keep doing what he wanted, so he made things—radios, microphones, speakers, and finally a solid-body electric guitar that revolutionized popular music. NF 32pgs
LEXILE: 720L

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
**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.  
**LEXILE:** 580L

**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.  
**LEXILE:** AD830L

**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.  
**LEXILE:** 740L

**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”.  
**LEXILE:** NP

**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.  
**LEXILE:** N/A

**Trombone Shorty**  
By: Troy Andrews (2015)
Hailing from the Tremé 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.  
**LEXILE:** 760L
BUILDING KNOWLEDGE STEAM TOPIC
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 harpsichords. Bagpipes and cellos and trombones. How can he find the one that is just right for him out of all those options? F 28 pgs
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 32 pgs
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 24 pgs
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 32 pgs
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 144 pgs
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 32 pgs
LEXILE: 550L

equipped: Mississippi Book List for ALL
My Five Senses
By: Aliki (2015)
A simple presentation of the five senses, demonstrating some ways we use them. NF 31pgs
LEXILE: AD590L

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 experienced colors as sounds and sounds as colors. NF 34pgs
LEXILE: AD630L

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

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

Squeak, Rumble, Whomp! Whomp! Whomp!
By: Wynton Marsalis (2012)
World-renowned jazz musician and composer Wynton Marsalis takes readers on a rollicking, clanging, clapping tour through the many sounds that fill a neighborhood. F 34pgs
LEXILE: AD460L

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
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

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 carry their pollen in order to produce seeds that will grow into more plants. NF 32pgs
LEXILE: 570L

Grandpa Cacao: A Tale of Chocolate, Form 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

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

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

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
Good Night, Wind

In this retelling of a Yiddish folktale, "Winter Wind worked hard all season long / blowing away leaves, / preparing trees for coats of snow and ice." Now, Wind is tired and needs a place to rest. But no one wants to shelter so cold and blustery a Wind - not the townspeople, not the country innkeeper, not even the gnarled tree who is worried about frozen roots. F 32pgs
LEXILE: AD600L

If Winter Comes, Tell it I’m Not Here
By: Simona Ciraolo (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

Oak Leaf
By: John Sandford (2019)

A lone autumn leaf falls and flies away on a breeze. It travels up and over the world and down again - where it finally lands on the page of a little girl’s open book and becomes a keepsake. F 32pgs
LEXILE: N/A

One 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

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
**A Sled for Gabo**  
By: Emma Otheguy (2021)  
On the day it snows, Gabo sees kids tugging sleds up the hill, then coasting down, whooping all the while. Gabo wishes he could join them, but his hat is too small, and he doesn’t have boots or a sled. But he does have warm and welcoming neighbors in his new town who help him solve the problem in the sweetest way possible!  
**LEXILE:** 580L  

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**Ten Ways to Hear Snow**  
By: Cathy Camper (2020)  
Walking to her grandmother’s home to help make warak enab, Lina discovers many ways to hear snow, from the scrape of a shovel on a sidewalk to the quiet pats of snowman-building.  
**LEXILE:** N/A  

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**When Green Becomes Tomatoes**  
By: Julie Morstad (2016)  
A poetic celebration of the seasons ranging from flowers blooming through sheets of snow to happy frogs dancing in the rain.  
**LEXILE:** NP  

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**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.  
**LEXILE:** AD590L  

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**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.  
**LEXILE:** AD530L  

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**Worm Weather**  
By: Jean Taft (2015)  
Join in the rainy-day fun, as kids splash through the puddles, affecting another weather enthusiast, a nearby worm. An imaginative and playful story, readers will love seeing the worm delight in the weather just as much as the kids.  
**LEXILE:** AD240L
BUILDING KNOWLEDGE STEAM TOPIC
WHAT’S IN THE SKY

**The Awesome Night Sky**
By: Kay Barnham (2021)
Students can learn all about constellations, shooting stars, and satellites when they look up in the night sky. **NF 32pgs**
LEXILE: N/A

**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

**Birthday on Mars!**
By: Sara Schonfeld (2019)
Mars is one of our closest neighbors, and a NASA robot named Curiosity is in charge of exploring the surface. Take a journey across a new planet along with Curiosity. You’re invited to join the party - because even robot’s have birthdays! **NF 32pgs**
LEXILE: 480L

**If You Were the Moon**
By: Laura Salas (2017)
What would you do if you were the moon? Do you think you would rest quietly in the night sky? Oh, no. The moon does so much more than you might imagine! It spins like a twilight ballerina, plays tug-of-war with the ocean, and lights a pathway for baby sea turtles. **NF 32pgs**
LEXILE: AD790L

**Catch the Sky**
By: Robert Heidbreder (2020)
Thirty-one short poems with no more than 18 words each capture a wide variety of objects that fly, float, soar, or simply exist in the air around and above us. **F 32pgs**
LEXILE: AD650L

**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

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LEXILE: AD580L
Mars’ First Friends
By: Susanna Hill (2020)
In a solar system full of planets, Mars feels all alone. All Mars wants is someone to play with, but all of the planets are just too busy. Mars can’t help but wonder...will he ever get a playmate? Until one day, Earth sends her little brother Mars his first friends: the rovers Spirit and Opportunity! 

**F 32pgs**

**LEXILE: AD1130L**

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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**

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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**

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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**

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The Stars Beckoned
By: Candy Wellins (2021)
Tells the story of Edward White, the first American astronaut to walk in space, and details his childhood interest in space and his journey to becoming an astronaut. 

**NF 32pgs**

**LEXILE: N/A**

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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**

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**F 48pgs**

**LEXILE: 510L**
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

**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

**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

**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

**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 📚 ✍️

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 📚 ✍️

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 📚 ✍️

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 📚 ✍️

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 📚 ✍️

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 📚 ✍️
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: 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

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: AD330L

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

equipped: Mississippi Book List for ALL
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

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

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 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

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

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
**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.  
LEXILE: 870L

**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?  
LEXILE: 540L

**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.  
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.  
LEXILE: 740L

**The 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?  
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.  
LEXILE: N/A
Can I Play Too?  
By: Samantha Cotterill (2020)  
Two boys’ fun train-track-building project takes a turn when one of the boys obliviously insists on only doing things his way. Their disagreement spells disaster for the train and the friendship, until a kind teacher steps in.  
LEXILE: N/A 32pgs

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LEXILE: N/A 32pgs

Family Reunion  
By: Chad Richardson (2021)  
Follows the experiences of a boy who reluctantly attends a family reunion before discovering that he is enjoying the large and joyful gathering in spite of his apprehensions.  
LEXILE: N/A 32pgs

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LEXILE: N/A 32pgs

Happy to Be 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.  
LEXILE: AD170L 24pgs

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LEXILE: AD170L 24pgs

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.  
LEXILE: N/A 32pgs

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LEXILE: N/A 32pgs

A Map into the World  
By: Kao Kalia Yang (2019)  
Paj Ntaub, a young Hmong American girl, spends a busy year with her family in their new home, and seeks a way to share the beauty of the world with a grieving neighbor.  
LEXILE: N/A 32pgs

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LEXILE: N/A 32pgs

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.  
LEXILE: N/A 32pgs

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LEXILE: N/A 32pgs
**Paper Planes**  
By: Jim Helmore (2020)  
Neighbors and best friends Mia and Ben love nothing more than making planes and flying them together, but when Ben moves away, both wonder if they can remain friends.  
**F 32pgs**  
**LEXILE:** 580L

**Saturday**  
By: Oge Mora (2019)  
When all of their special Saturday plans go awry, Ava and her mother still find a way to appreciate one another and their time together.  
**F 32pgs**  
**LEXILE:** N/A

**Sophie’s Squash**  
By: Pat Miller (2021)  
On a trip to the farmers’ market with her parents, Sophie chooses a squash, but instead of letting her mom cook it, she names it Bernice. From then on, Sophie brings Bernice everywhere, despite her parents’ gentle warnings that Bernice will begin to rot.  
**F 32pgs**  
**LEXILE:** AD550L

**Say Something**  
By: Peter Reynolds (2019)  
A story that explores the ways a single voice can make a difference.  
**F 32pgs**  
**LEXILE:** AD510L

**Sincerely, Emerson**  
By: Emerson Weber (2020)  
Eleven-year-old Emerson Weber gives her mail carrier, Doug, a letter of thanks, and her small act of kindness sets off a chain reaction of gratitude, hope, and appreciation for essential workers around the world.  
**NF 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.  
  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.  
  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.  
  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.  
  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.  
  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.  
  LEXILE: N/A
appendix a
TEXT SETS
**CREATING TEXT SETS TEMPLATE**

Text sets are collections of resources from different genres, 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.

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

**TEXT SET SUMMARY**

**MS CCR 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>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
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<td>4</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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>Resource Type</th>
<th>Genre</th>
<th>Lexile (if applicable)</th>
<th>Available in multilingual format</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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</tbody>
</table>

**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)
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.

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
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BOOK TITLE</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</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
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.

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.

The book is directly connected to English Language Arts 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.

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.

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...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Neither</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</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></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 2. The library contains numerous books that include...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Neither</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Main characters of color or different nationality/ethnicity</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Main characters with different types of gender identity and gender expression</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>A range of family structures and family configurations</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Different socioeconomic backgrounds</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religious diversity</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Main characters with disabilities</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 3. The library contains numerous books that...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Neither</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Are written or illustrated by a person of color or of different nationality/ethnicity</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<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>
<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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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4 The majority of books featuring people of color or different nationality/ethnicity people...  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<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>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Are only culturally specific (e.g., flags, food, festivals)</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Are only culturally neutral or contain incidental diversity</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Are non-authentic stories about a group of people</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contain harmful stereotypes or discriminatory content about a group of people</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contain inaccurate/outdated information or makes generalizations about a group of people</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

5 The library contains multiple books that support...  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<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>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MS CCR Social Studies Standards</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MS CCR Science Standards</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MS CCR Social Emotional Standards</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6 The library reflects...  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<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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</tbody>
</table>

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
  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

- **Reading is Fundamental Educator Resources** (Grades K - 12)
  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
  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.
**Día: Children’s Book Day** (Grades K - 8)
dia.alo.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.