FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS: LIBRARIANS

Using Lexile® measures to help students "Find a Book" this summer

Young children and their parents may come into your library this summer and ask for help finding books in a Lexile range that match their interests. The following information will help with these requests.

What is a Lexile measure?
A Lexile measure indicates the reading level of an individual or a book. By comparing a student's Lexile measure with the Lexile measure of a book, you can decide whether its text demand will be too difficult, too easy or just right for a student's reading ability. To best strengthen his or her reading skills, a student should read books within his or her Lexile range.

What is a student's recommended Lexile range?
A student's Lexile range spans from 100L below to 50L above his or her Lexile measure. When a student reads within his or her Lexile range, he or she should be able to comprehend enough of the book to make sense of it, while still being sufficiently challenged to maintain interest and learning.

How does a student get a Lexile measure in Iowa?
More than 50 popular reading assessments and programs report out Lexile measures.
Visit http://www.lexile.com/about-lexile/How-to-get-lexile-measures/ for a complete list.

How can you use Lexile measures to help students find books?
With the free "Find a Book" search tool, you can help students select books that best match his or her reading ability (Lexile measure), interests and goals. It's easy and fun to use!

1. Go to **www.lexile.com/fab/iowa**
2. Enter a student's Lexile measure
   If you do not know a student's Lexile measure, you can search for books based on his or her comfort with grade-level materials.
3. Have a student pick interest categories
4. View and refine the search results
   As you browse books, click the "Find in a Library" button next to the book titles to check its availability at your public library.
5. Add books to a student's reading list
   You can print or email a student's custom book list.

For more information on Lexile measures, visit **www.Lexile.com.**

Should a student try to read books outside of his or her Lexile range?
A student can read books that are above or below his or her Lexile range. However, books that are below a student's Lexile range may offer little challenge in terms of new vocabulary and complex grammatical structure. Similarly, books that are above his or her Lexile range may be too challenging and discourage the reader.

Higher Lexile measures allow an advanced and enthusiastic reader to:
- be challenged with high-interest books above his or her Lexile level
- seek help with a hard but interesting book
- find other books on the same subject but at a higher Lexile level

Lower Lexile measures allow a struggling and reluctant reader to:
- build skills with less challenging books on topics of choice
- select high-low books based on Lexile and development levels
- find other books on the same subject but at a lower level

Does a student need a Lexile measure to use "Find a Book"?
No. The "Find a Book" search tool can estimate a student's starting Lexile range based on his or her grade and comfort with the reading material at that grade. Then, based on the book search results, a student can further refine his or her Lexile range to select books that best support successful reading.

How is the Lexile measure of a book determined?
A book receives a Lexile measure when MetaMetrics® analyzes the complete text using propriety software that evaluates its various dimensions. Lexile measures range from below 200L for beginning-reader text to above 1700L for more advanced text. More than 130,000 books have Lexile measures, and this number continues to grow.

Is a Lexile measure the only criteria to consider when picking a book?
A Lexile measure is a measure of text complexity only. It does not address the subject matter or text quality, age-appropriateness of the content or a student's interests. The Lexile measure is one piece of information that a student can use to select books.

Some books also have a Lexile code—a two-letter designation that appears before the Lexile measure (for example, AD580L)—to provide more information about the books developmental appropriateness, reading difficulty, and common or intended usage. Visit www.Lexile.com for more information on Lexile codes.

LEXILE®

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The Lexile Framework for Reading evaluates reading ability and text complexity on the same developmental scale. Unlike other measurement systems, the Lexile Framework determines reading ability based on actual assessments, rather than generalized age or grade levels. Recognized as the standard for matching readers with texts, tens of millions of students worldwide receive a Lexile measure that helps them find targeted readings from more than 400 million articles, books and websites that have been measured. Lexile measures connect learners of all ages with resources at the right level of challenge and monitor their progress toward state and national proficiency standards.

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