

READING FOR SIGNPOSTS

Signpost and Definitions	Clues to the Signpost	What Literary Element it Helps Us Understand	Anchor Questions
<p>Contrasts and Contradictions A sharp contrast between what we would expect and what we observe the character doing; behavior contradicts previous behavior or well-established patterns. Also contrasts between characters or situations.</p>	<p>A character behaves or thinks in a way we don't expect, or an element of a setting is something we would not expect</p>	<p>Character development Internal conflict Theme Relationship between setting and plot</p>	<p>Why would the character act or feel this way? How do the contrasts between characters help us understand them? How might contrasts between situations help us predict plot or conflict?</p>
<p>Again and Again Events, images, or particular words that recur over a portion of the novel</p>	<p>A word is repeated, sometimes used in an odd way, over and over in the story An image reappears several times during the course of the book</p>	<p>Plot Setting Symbolism Theme Character development Conflict</p>	<p>Why might the author bring this up again and again?</p>
<p>Memory Moment A recollection by a character that interrupts the forward progress of the story</p>	<p>The ongoing flow of the narrative is interrupted by a memory that comes to the character, often taking several paragraphs to recount before we are returned to events of the present moment.</p>	<p>Character development Plot Theme Relationship between character and plot</p>	<p>Why might this memory be important?</p>
<p>Aha Moment A character's realization of something that shifts his actions or understanding of himself, others, or the world around him.</p>	<p>Phrases usually expressing suddenness, like: "Suddenly I understood..." "It came to me in a flash that..." "The realization hit me like a lightning bolt..." "In an instant I knew..."</p>	<p>Character development Internal conflict Plot</p>	<p>How might this change things?</p>



THE LEXILE® FRAMEWORK FOR READING MAP

Matching Readers with Text



Richard Woods, Georgia's School Superintendent
"Educating Georgia's Future"

Imagine getting students excited about reading while also improving their reading abilities. With the Lexile® Map, students have a chance to match books with their reading levels, and celebrate as they are able to read increasingly complex texts!

Let your students find books that fit them! Build custom book lists for your students by accessing our "Find a Book, Georgia" tool at Lexile.com/fab/GA.

HOW IT WORKS

The Lexile® Map provides examples of popular books and sample texts that are matched to various points on the Lexile® scale, from 200L for early reader text to 1600L for more advanced texts. The examples on the map help to define text complexity and help readers identify books of various levels of text complexity. Both literature and informational texts are presented on the Lexile Map.

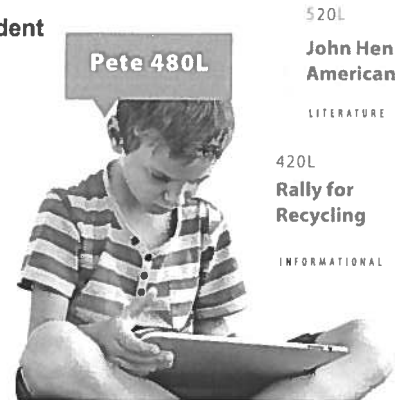
HOW TO USE IT

Lexile reader and text measures can be used together to forecast how well a reader will likely comprehend a text at a specific Lexile level. A Lexile reader measure is usually obtained by having the reader take a reading comprehension test. Numerous tests report Lexile reader measures including many state end-of-year assessments, national norm-referenced assessments, and reading program assessments. A Lexile reader measure places students on the same Lexile scale as the texts. This scale ranges from below 200L to above 1600L. The Lexile website also provides a way to estimate a reader measure

by using information about the reader's grade level and self-reported reading ability.

Individuals reading within their Lexile ranges (100L below to 50L above their Lexile reader measures) are likely to comprehend approximately 75 percent of the text when reading independently. This "targeted reading" rate is the point at which a reader will comprehend enough to understand the text but will also face some reading challenge. The result is growth in reading ability and a rewarding reading experience.

For more guidance concerning targeting readers with books, visit www.Lexile.com/fab/GA to access the "Find a Book, Georgia" tool. "Find a Book, Georgia" enables users to search from over 210,000 books to build custom reading lists based on Lexile range and personal interests and to check the availability of books at the local library.



Pete 480L

520L

John Henry: An American Legend

LITERATURE

420L

Rally for Recycling

INFORMATIONAL

810L

Where the Mountain Meets the Moon

LITERATURE



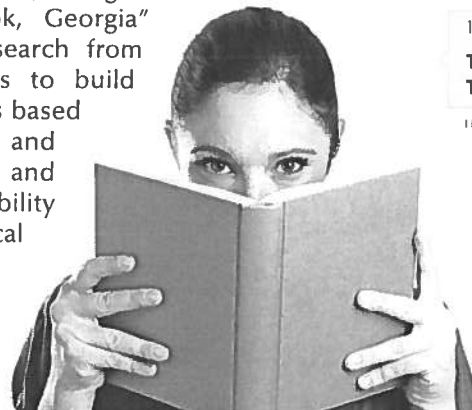
Kaitlyn: 840L

IG860L

Animals Nobody Loves

INFORMATIONAL

Marisa: 1300L



1200L

The Dark Game: True Spy Stories

INFORMATIONAL

1340L

The Hunchback of Notre Dame

LITERATURE



The Lexile Framework for Reading

1300 L › 1500L+
LEXILE RANGE

1500L+ ▶

1500L *Don Quixote*** CERVANTES

The Words were to me so many Pearls of Eloquence, and his Voice sweeter to my Ears than Sugar to the Taste. The Reflection on the Misfortune which these Verses brought on me, has often made me applaud Plato's Design of banishing all Poets from a good and well governed Commonwealth, especially those who write wantonly or lasciviously. For, instead of composing lamentable Verses, like those of the Marquiss of Mantua, that make Women and Children cry by the Fireside, they try their utmost Skill on such soft Strokes as enter the Soul, and wound it, like that Thunder which hurts and consumes all within, yet leaves the Garment sound. Another Time he entertained me with the following Song.



SAMPLE TITLES

LITERATURE	1640L	The Plot Against America (ROTH)
	1560L	Rob Roy (SCOTT)
	1530L	The Good Earth (BUCK)
	1520L	A Fable (FAULKNER)
INFORMATIONAL	1500L	The Decameron (BOCCACCIO)
	1600L	Sustaining Life: How Human Health Depends on Biodiversity (CHIVIAN & BERNSTEIN)
	1550L	The Art of War (SUN TZU)
	1560L	The United States' Constitution
	1520L	Fair Play: The Ethics of Sport (SIMON)
	1500L	Critique of Pure Reason (KANT)

1400L ▶ 1495L

1400L *Nathaniel's Nutmeg* MILTON

Setting sail once again they kept a sharp look-out for Busse Island, discovered thirty years previously by Martin Frobisher, but the rolling sea mists had grown too thick. Storms and gale—force winds plagued them for days on end and at one point grew so ferocious that the foremast cracked, splintered and was hurled into the sea. It was with considerable relief that the crew sighted through the mist the coast of Newfoundland—a vague geographical term in Hudson's day—at the beginning of July. They dropped anchor in Penobscot Bay, some one hundred miles west of Nova Scotia.



SAMPLE TITLES

LITERATURE	1460L	The Legend of Sleepy Hollow (IRVING)
	1450L	Billy Budd** (MELVILLE)
	1430L	The Story of King Arthur and His Knights (PYLE)
	1420L	Life All Around Me by Ellen Foster (GIBBONS)
INFORMATIONAL	1420L	The Scarlet Letter** (HAWTHORNE)
	1490L	America's Constitution: A Biography** (AMAR)
	1490L	Gettysburg Address (LINCOLN)
	1480L	The Declaration of Independence
	1410L	Profiles in Courage (KENNEDY)
	1400L	The Life and Times of Frederick Douglass (DOUGLASS)

1300L ▶ 1395L

1300L *1776: America and Britain at War*** MCCULLOUGH

But from this point on, the citizen-soldiers of Washington's army were no longer to be fighting only for the defense of their country, or for their rightful liberties as freeborn Englishmen, as they had at Lexington and Concord, Bunker Hill and through the long siege at Boston. It was now a proudly proclaimed, all-out war for an independent America, a new America, and thus a new day of freedom and equality. At his home in Newport, Nathanael Greene's mentor, the Reverend Ezra Stiles, wrote in his diary almost in disbelief: Thus the Congress has tied a Gordian knot, which the Parl [iament] will find they can neither cut, nor untie. The thirteen united colonies now rise into an Independent Republic among the kingdoms, states, and empires on earth...And have I lived to see such an important and astonishing revolution?



SAMPLE TITLES

LITERATURE	1360L	Robinson Crusoe (DEFOE)
	1350L	The Secret Sharer (CONRAD)
	1340L	The Hunchback of Notre Dame (HUGO)
	1340L	The Metamorphosis** (KAFKA)
INFORMATIONAL	1340L	Fever Pitch (HORNBY)
	1390L	In Defense of Food: An Eater's Manifesto (POLLAN)
	1380L	Politics and the English Language** (ORWELL)
	1370L	Jane Austen's Pride and Prejudice (BLOOM)
	1340L	Walden** (THOREAU)
	1300L	Arctic Dreams: Imagination and Desire in a Northern Landscape (LOPEZ)

**Common Core State Standards Text Exemplar



1200L ▶ 1295L

1200L *Why We Can't Wait* KING

We sing the freedom songs today for the same reason the slaves sang them, because we too are in bondage and the songs add hope to our determination that "We shall overcome, Black and white together, We shall overcome someday." I have stood in a meeting with hundreds of youngsters and joined in while they sang "Ain't Gonna Let Nobody Turn Me 'Round." It is not just a song; it is a resolve. A few minutes later, I have seen those same youngsters refuse to turn around from the onrush of a police. We sing the freedom songs today for the same reason the slaves sang them, because we too are in bondage and the songs add hope to our determination that "We shall overcome, Black and white together, We shall overcome someday."



SAMPLE TITLES

LITERATURE	1280L	The House of the Spirits (ALLENDE)
	1270L	Tarzan of the Apes (BURROUGHS)
	1270L	Chronicle of a Death Foretold (GARCÍA MÁRQUEZ)
	1220L	Annie John (KINCAID)
INFORMATIONAL	1210L	The Namesake** (LAHIRI)
	1290L	A Brief History of Time (HAWKING)
	1280L	Black, Blue, and Gray: African Americans in the Civil War** (HASKINS)
	1240L	Blood Done Sign My Name (TYSON)
	1230L	Stiff: The Curious Lives of Human Cadavers (ROACH)
	1200L	The Dark Game: True Spy Stories (JANEČZKO)

1100L ▶ 1195L

1100L *Pride and Prejudice*** AUSTEN

Lydia was a stout, well-grown girl of fifteen, with a fine complexion and good-humoured countenance; a favourite with her mother, whose affection had brought her into public at an early age. She had high animal spirits, and a sort of natural self-consequence, which the attentions of the officers, to whom her uncle's good dinners and her own easy manners recommended her, had increased into assurance. She was very equal therefore to address Mr. Bingley on the subject of the ball, and abruptly reminded him of his promise; adding, that it would be the most shameful thing in the world if he did not keep it. His answer to this sudden attack was delightful to their mother's ear.



SAMPLE TITLES

LITERATURE	1180L	The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time (HADDON)
	1170L	The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier & Clay (CHABON)
	1150L	A Wizard of Earthsea (LE GUIN)
	1130L	All the King's Men (WARREN)
INFORMATIONAL	1110L	A Separate Peace (KNOWLES)
	1160L	The Longitude Prize** (DASH)
	1160L	In Search of Our Mothers' Gardens (WALKER)
	1140L	Winterdance: The Fine Madness of Running the Iditarod (PAULSEN)
	1130L	The Great Fire** (MURPHY)
	1100L	Vincent Van Gogh: Portrait of an Artist** (GREENBERG & JORDAN)

1000L ▶ 1095L

1000L *Mythbusters Science Fair Book* MARGLES

There may be less bacteria on the food that's picked up quickly, but playing it safe is the best idea. If it hits the floor, the next thing it should hit is the trash. If putting together petri dishes and dealing with incubation seems like a bigger project than you're ready to take on, there's a simpler way to observe bacterial growth. Practically all you need is some bread and your own two hands. Cut the edges off each slice of bread so that they'll fit into the plastic containers. Put one slice of bread into each container. Measure one tablespoon of water and splash it into the first piece of bread. Put the lid on the container and use your pen and tape to label this your control.



SAMPLE TITLES

LITERATURE	1080L	I Heard the Owl Call My Name (CRAVEN)
	1070L	Savvy (LAW)
	1070L	Around the World in 80 Days (VERNE)
INFORMATIONAL	1010L	The Pearl (STEINBECK)
	1000L	The Hobbit or There and Back Again (TOLKIEN)
	1070L	Geeks: How Two Lost Boys Rode the Internet Out of Idaho** (KATZ)
	1030L	Phineas Gage (FLEISCHMAN)
	1020L	This Land Was Made for You and Me: The Life and Songs of Woody Guthrie (PARTRIDGE)
1010L	Travels With Charley: In Search of America** (STEINBECK)	
1000L	Claudette Colvin: Twice Toward Justice (HOOSE)	

**Common Core State Standards Text Exemplar



900L ▶ 995L

900L ***We are the Ship: The Story of
Negro League Baseball*** NELSON

Rube ran his ball club like it was a major league team. Most Negro teams back then weren't very well organized. Didn't always have enough equipment or even matching uniforms. Most times they went from game to game scattered among different cars, or sometimes they'd even have to "hobo"—which means hitch a ride on the back of someone's truck to get to the next town for a game. But not Rube's team. They were always well equipped, with clean, new uniforms, bats, and balls. They rode to the games in fancy Pullman cars Rube rented and hitched to the back of the train. It was something to see that group of Negroes stepping out of the train, dressed in suits and hats. They were big-leaguers.



SAMPLE TITLES

LITERATURE	980L	Dovey Coe (DOWELL)
	950L	Bud, Not Buddy (CURTIS)
	940L	Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets (ROWLING)
	940L	Heat (LUPICA)
900L	City of Fire (YEP)	
INFORMATIONAL	990L	Seabiscuit (HILLENBRAND)
	970L	The Kid's Guide to Money: Earning It, Saving It, Spending It, Growing It, Sharing It** (OTFINDSKI)
	950L	Jim Thorpe, Original All-American (BRUCHAC)
	930L	Colin Powell A & E Biography (FINLAYSON)
	920L	Talking with Artists (CUMMINGS)

800L ▶ 895L

800L ***Moon Over Manifest*** VANDERPOOL

There wasn't much left in the tree fort from previous dwellers. Just an old hammer and a few rusted tin cans holding some even rustier nails. A couple of wood crates with the salt girl holding her umbrella painted on top. And a shabby plaque dangling sideways on one nail, FORT TREECONDEROGA. Probably named after the famous fort from Revolutionary War days. Anything else that might have been left behind had probably been weathered to bits and fallen through the cracks. No matter. I'd have this place whipped into shape lickety-split. First off, I picked out the straightest nail I could find and fixed that sign up right. Fort Treeconderoga was open for business.



SAMPLE TITLES

LITERATURE	GN840L*	The Odyssey (HINDS)
	830L	Baseball in April and Other Stories (SOTO)
	820L	Maniac Magee (SPINELLI)
	810L	Where the Mountain Meets the Moon** (LIN)
800L	Homeless Bird (WHELEN)	
INFORMATIONAL	880L	The Circuit (JIMENEZ)
	870L	The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens (COVEY)
	IG860L*	Animals Nobody Loves (SEYMOUR)
	860L	Through My Eyes: Ruby Bridges (BRIDGES)
830L	Quest for the Tree Kangaroo: An Expedition to the Cloud Forest of New Guinea** (MONTGOMERY)	

700L ▶ 795L

700L ***The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*** DICAMILLO

Edward, for lack of anything better to do, began to think. He thought about the stars. He remembered what they looked like from his bedroom window. What made them shine so brightly, he wondered, and were they still shining somewhere even though he could not see them? Never in my life, he thought, have I been farther away from the stars than I am now. He considered, too, the fate of the beautiful princess who had become a warthog. Why had she become a warthog? Because the ugly witch turned her into one—that was why. And then the rabbit thought about Pellegrina. He felt, in some way that he could not explain to himself, that she was responsible for what had happened to him. It was almost as if it was she, and not the boys, who had thrown Edward overboard.



SAMPLE TITLES

LITERATURE	770L	Walk Two Moons (CREECH)
	760L	Hoot (HIAASEN)
	750L	Esperanza Rising (RYAN)
	720L	Nancy's Mysterious Letter (KEENE)
GN720L*	Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure at the Copper Beeches (DOYLE)	
INFORMATIONAL	790L	Be Water, My Friend: The Early Years of Bruce Lee (MOCHIZUKI)
	760L	Stay: The True Story of Ten Dogs (MUNTEAN)
	IG760L*	Mapping Shipwrecks with Coordinate Planes (WALL)
	720L	Pretty in Print: Questioning Magazines (BOTZAKIS)
720L	Spiders in the Hairdo: Modern Urban Legends (HOLT & MOONEY)	

*GN denotes Graphic Novel, IG denotes Illustrated Guide
**Common Core State Standards Text Exemplar



600L ▶ 695L

600L *You're on Your Way, Teddy Roosevelt* ST. GEORGE & FAULKNER

But from his first workout in Wood's Gymnasium he had been determined to control his asthma and illnesses rather than letting his asthma and illnesses control him. And he had. On that hot summer day in August he had proved to himself—and everyone else—that he had taken charge of his own life. In 1876 Teedie—now known as Teddy—entered Harvard College. He was on his own ...without Papa. That was all right. "I am to do everything for myself," he wrote in his diary. Why not? He was stronger and in better health than he had ever been. And ready and eager for the adventures and opportunities that lay ahead.



SAMPLE TITLES

LITERATURE	680L	Charlotte's Web (WHITE)
	660L	Holes (SACHAR)
	620L	M.C. Higgins, the Great** (HAMILTON)
	610L	Mountain Bike Mania (CHRISTOPHER)
INFORMATIONAL	610L	A Year Down Yonder (PECK)
	690L	Where Do Polar Bears Live?* (THOMSON)
	680L	An Eye for Color: The Story of Josef Albers (WING)
	660L	Remember: The Journey to School Integration (MORRISON)
	660L	From Seed to Plant** (GIBBONS)
	630L	Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes (COERR)

500L ▶ 595L

500L *A Germ's Journey* ROOKE

Excuse me! Let's blow out of this place! In real life, germs are very small. They can't be seen without a microscope. Rudy forgot to use a tissue. His cold germs fly across the room at more than 100 miles an hour. Whee! I can fly! Best ride ever! A few germs land on Ernie. But skin acts like a suit of armor. It protects against harm. The germs won't find a new home there. Healthy skin keeps germs out. But germs can sneak into the body through cuts, scrapes, or cracks in the skin. Most germs enter through a person's mouth or nose. Rudy's germs continue to fall on nearly everything in the room—including Brenda's candy.



SAMPLE TITLES

LITERATURE	560L	Sarah, Plain and Tall (MACLACHLAN)
	530L	It's All Greek to Me (SCIESZKA)
	520L	John Henry: An American Legend (KEATS)
	500L	Judy Moody Saves the World (MCDONALD)
INFORMATIONAL	500L	The Curse of the Cheese Pyramid (STILTON)
	IG590L*	Claude Monet (CONNOLLY)
	560L	Lemons and Lemonade: A Book about Supply and Demand (LOEWEN)
	560L	Molly the Pony (KASTER)
	530L	Langston Hughes: Great American Poet (MCKISSACK)
510L	A Picture for Marc (KIMMEL)	

400L ▶ 495L

400L *How Not to Babysit Your Brother* HAPKA

I continued to search. I checked under Steve's bed. Then I checked under my bed. I searched the basement, the garage, and my closet. There was no sign of Steve. This was going to be harder than I thought. Where was Steve hiding? CRASH! Uh-oh, I thought. I heard Buster barking in the kitchen. I ran to see what was going on. When I got there, the dog food bin was tipped over. Steve's head and shoulders were sticking out of the top. Dog food was stuck in his hair, on his clothes, and up his nose. He looked like an alien from the planet Yuck. He giggled as Buster licked some crumbs off his ear.



SAMPLE TITLES

LITERATURE	460L	Chrysanthemum (HENKES)
	410L	The Enormous Crocodile (DAHL)
	GN400L*	Pilot And Huxley (MCGUINNESS)
	400L	The Fire Cat** (AVERILL)
INFORMATIONAL	400L	Cowgirl Kate and Cocoa** (SILVERMAN)
	480L	Martin Luther King, Jr. and the March on Washington** (RUFFIN)
	460L	True Life Treasure Hunts (DONNELLY)
	460L	Half You Heard of Fractions? (ADAMSON)
	420L	Rally for Recycling (BULLARD)
400L	Animals in Winter (RUSTAD)	

*GN denotes Graphic Novel, IG denotes Illustrated Guide
**Common Core State Standards Text Exemplar



The Lexile Framework for Reading

200L ▶ 395L
LEXILE RANGE

300L ▶ 395L

300L *Princess Posey and the Next-Door Dog* GREENE

"We have to stop now," said Miss Lee. "It's time for reading." "Ohhh..." A disappointed sound went up around the circle. "Here's what we'll do." Miss Lee stood up. "You are all very interested in dogs. So this week, you can write a story about your own dog or pet. Then you can read it to the class." Everyone got excited again. Except Posey. She didn't have a pet. Not a dog. Not a cat. Not a hamster. "Those of you who don't have a pet," Miss Lee said, "can write about the pet you hope to own someday." Miss Lee had saved the day! Now Posey had something to write about, too. Posey told her mom about Luca's puppy on the way home.



SAMPLE TITLES

LITERATURE	380L	Martha Bakes a Cake (BARSS)
	380L	Junie B. Jones is (Almost) a Flower Girl (PARK)
	360L	Poppleton in Winter** (RYLANT)
	340L	Never Swipe a Bully's Bear (APPLEGATE)
INFORMATIONAL	330L	Frog and Toad Together** (LOBEL)
	GN380L*	BMX Blitz (CIENCIN)
	380L	Lemonade for Sale (MURPHY)
	350L	A Snowy Day (SCHAEFER)
	330L	Freedom River (RAPPAPORT)
	300L	From Tree to Paper (MARSHALL)

200L ▶ 295L

200L *Ronald Morgan Goes to Bat* GIFF

He smacked the ball with the bat. The ball flew across the field. "Good," said Mr. Spano. "Great, Slugger!" I yelled. "We'll win every game. It was my turn next. I put on the helmet, and stood at home plate. "Ronald Morgan," said Rosemary. "You're holding the wrong end of the bat." Quickly I turned it around. I clutched it close to the end. Whoosh went the first ball. Whoosh went the second one. Wham went the third. It hit me in the knee. "Are you all right?" asked Michael. But I heard Tom say, "I knew it. Ronald Morgan's the worst." At snack time, we told Miss Tyler about the team.



SAMPLE TITLES

LITERATURE	280L	Hi! Fly Guy** (ARNOLD)
	260L	The Cat in the Hat (SEUSS)
	GN240L*	Lunch Lady and the Cyborg Substitute (KROSOZKA)
INFORMATIONAL	200L	Dixie (GILMAN)
	200L	The Best Bug Parade (MURPHY)
	290L	The Story of Pocahontas (JENNER)
	250L	Math in the Kitchen (AMATO)
	230L	What makes Day and Night (BRANLEY)
220L	I Love Trains! (STURGES)	
210L	Sharks! (CLARKE)	

*GN denotes Graphic Novel

**Common Core State Standards Text Exemplar

Please note:

The Lexile measure (text complexity) of a book is an excellent starting point for a student's book selection. It's important to understand that the book's Lexile measure should not be the only factor in a student's book selection process. Lexile measures do not consider factors such as age-appropriateness, interest, and prior knowledge. These are also key factors when matching children and adolescents with books they might like and are able to read.



Lexile codes provide more information about developmental appropriateness, reading difficulty, and common or intended usage of books. For more information on Lexile codes, please visit Lexile.com.

LEXILE TEXT RANGES TO GUIDE READING FOR COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS

GRADES	CCSS LEXILE TEXT RANGE
11-12	1185L-1385L
9-10	1050L-1335L
6-8	925L-1185L
4-5	740L-1010L
2-3	420L-820L
1	190L-530L

COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS FOR ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS, APPENDIX A (ADDITIONAL INFORMATION), NGA AND CCSSO, 2012

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Teenagers and Reading

Perhaps the teenagers in your family were once avid readers but now hardly ever open a book or maybe they never liked reading in the first place. As an adult you know that reading is important and you want to make sure that the teenagers in your life grow into adulthood with all of the skills they need to succeed. Reading Is Fundamental suggests how parents can help teenagers decide for themselves that reading is important to their lives.

Try to avoid...

- Pressuring, nagging or bribing. Encourage teens to read but do not hound them.
- Criticizing what teens read. Explain what troubles you about certain types of reading materials after reading them yourself. Forbid as little as possible and whenever you can accept differences of opinion as just that.
- Lavishing too much praise. If you catch your teenagers reading show interest but do not make a big deal out of it. Teens need to know that they are reading for their own pleasure and not for your approval.

Ways to encourage teens to read...

- Set an example. Let teens see you reading for pleasure.
- Furnish your home with a variety of reading materials. Leave books, magazines and newspapers around. Check to see what disappears for a clue to what interests your teenager.
- Give teens an opportunity to choose their own books. When you and your teen are out together browse in a bookstore or library. Go your separate ways and make your own selections. A bookstore gift certificate is a nice way of saying "You choose".
- Build on your teen's interests. Look for books and articles that feature their favorite sports teams, rock stars, hobbies or television shows. Give a gift subscription to a special interest magazine.
- View pleasure reading as a value in itself. Almost anything your youngsters read, including the Sunday comics, helps build reading skills.
- Read some books written for teens. Young adult novels can give you valuable insights into the concerns and pressures felt by teenagers. You may find that these books provide a neutral ground on which to talk about sensitive subjects.
- Make reading aloud a natural part of family life. Share an article you clipped from the paper, a poem, a letter or a random page from an encyclopedia without turning it into a lesson.
- Acknowledge your teen's mature interests. Look for ways to acknowledge the emerging adult in your teens by suggesting some adult reading you think they can handle.
- Keep the big picture in mind. For all sorts of reasons some teenagers go through periods without showing much interest in reading. Do not panic. Time and a few tips from this article may help rekindle their interest.

Adults know how important it is for their teenagers to read. Reading is not just important while teens are in school but good reading skills are essential to future success in the workplace. Making a pitch for reading can be a real challenge. If you are the parent of a teenager who has lost interest in reading or never liked it much, here are some suggestions for connecting with your child about books and reading.

What's in it for your teen? Through reading they can:

- Become an expert. Be an expert on any subject they like from sports stats to spelunking, coins to carburetors or anything in between.
- Live dangerously. Through reading teens can share the challenges, fears, thrills and achievements of those they are reading about without the risk.
- Have a few laughs. Many teens will enjoy sitting down with a book by their favorite stand-up comedian, a collection of jokes or cartoons or a humor magazine.
- See the world without leaving their rooms. Reading allows teens to visit places that fascinate them.
- Travel through time. Historical fiction and science fiction move a reader back and forth in time.
- Use their brains. Teens may enjoy solving a mystery by figuring out who did it, outwitting a crafty villain or thinking through a perilous situation.
- Get some free advice. Lots of novels feature teenage characters who have problems and pressures similar to those of your teenager.
- Discover new interests. Through reading teens may develop an interest in something they knew nothing about before.
- Find a cause. Teens can get smart on an issue that matters to them.
- Escape. Teens can escape noise, tension or boredom by escaping into a book.

Helping teens find books that interest them...

What they say is true. The more you read the better you read. In other words, stepping up the reading you do for yourself will make other reading tasks less of a chore. Here are some ideas parents can share with their teens to find the kinds of books that will most interest them:

- Decide what you are in the mood for. High adventure? Romance? Perhaps you enjoyed a recent movie or TV miniseries. Chances are it was based on a book you would enjoy also.
- Ask around. Ask friends, a favorite teacher or your coach to suggest books they enjoyed.
- Check out the library. It will not cost you anything and the choices are virtually unlimited. Do not be shy about asking a librarian a question such as "Do you have any books on rock music?"
- Browse in a bookstore. Find the section that interests you. Treat yourself to an inexpensive paperback or just have a look around.
- Consult a list of books other teenagers have enjoyed. Ask for a book list at your school or public library.
- Do not judge a book by its cover. What you see on the cover is not necessarily what you get. Read the short reviews printed inside a dust jacket or skim the first chapter to find out what a book is really about.
- Try a few pages. If the book is not for you, put it aside and try another until you find a winner.
- Read at your own pace. Reading is not a contest. So what if you read slowly or skip words here and there? If you are interested you will read to the end and that is what counts. You will probably find yourself picking up speed along the way.
- Let one good thing lead to another. When you read something that really speaks to you, you may be sorry to have it end. The end is never really the end for a person who reads. You can always open another book, and another and another.

Source: Reading Is Fundamental Parent Guide Brochure

<http://www.rif.org/us/literacy-resources/articles/teenagers-and-reading.htm>

Parent Guide to Reading at Home



Want to help your student with reading at home but are not exactly sure what to do? Please use the following tips as a guide to help when reading with your student.

Reading aloud with students provides them with opportunities to advance their literacy skills. Some of the following are all positive benefits that students reap from being read aloud to:

- ✓ Develop general and literacy related vocabulary
- ✓ Develop story comprehension skills
- ✓ Develop an understanding of the structure of stories
- ✓ Increase word recognition skills
- ✓ Develop an understanding of the writing process

Parents play a key role in the process of their students becoming literate. What can you do when reading with your student? Try to remember to do the following when you read aloud with your child:

- ✓ Point out the title
- ✓ Point out the author
- ✓ Point out the illustrator
- ✓ Read the dedication if any
- ✓ Look at the cover illustration and predict what will happen in the story
- ✓ Use expression
- ✓ Let your student comment or ask questions when you read

Try some of these activities to extend your child's reading:

- ✓ Create a new story. Talk about the characters in the story. Describe them using character traits such as silly, kind, funny, curious or patient.
- ✓ Watch a movie adaptation together after you have read the book and compare and contrast. What is different? What is the same?
- ✓ Act out a scene from the story. Let your student take on the role as their favorite character.

Teenagers and Reading

Perhaps the teenagers in your family were once avid readers but now hardly ever open a book or maybe they never liked reading in the first place. As an adult you know that reading is important and you want to make sure that the teenagers in your life grow into adulthood with all of the skills they need to succeed. Reading Is Fundamental suggests how parents can help teenagers decide for themselves that reading is important to their lives.

Try to avoid...

- Pressuring, nagging or bribing. Encourage teens to read but do not hound them.
- Criticizing what teens read. Explain what troubles you about certain types of reading materials after reading them yourself. Forbid as little as possible and whenever you can accept differences of opinion as just that.
- Lavishing too much praise. If you catch your teenagers reading show interest but do not make a big deal out of it. Teens need to know that they are reading for their own pleasure and not for your approval.

Ways to encourage teens to read...

- Set an example. Let teens see you reading for pleasure.
- Furnish your home with a variety of reading materials. Leave books, magazines and newspapers around. Check to see what disappears for a clue to what interests your teenager.
- Give teens an opportunity to choose their own books. When you and your teen are out together browse in a bookstore or library. Go your separate ways and make your own selections. A bookstore gift certificate is a nice way of saying "You choose".
- Build on your teen's interests. Look for books and articles that feature their favorite sports teams, rock stars, hobbies or television shows. Give a gift subscription to a special interest magazine.
- View pleasure reading as a value in itself. Almost anything your youngsters read, including the Sunday comics, helps build reading skills.
- Read some books written for teens. Young adult novels can give you valuable insights into the concerns and pressures felt by teenagers. You may find that these books provide a neutral ground on which to talk about sensitive subjects.
- Make reading aloud a natural part of family life. Share an article you clipped from the paper, a poem, a letter or a random page from an encyclopedia without turning it into a lesson.
- Acknowledge your teen's mature interests. Look for ways to acknowledge the emerging adult in your teens by suggesting some adult reading you think they can handle.
- Keep the big picture in mind. For all sorts of reasons some teenagers go through periods without showing much interest in reading. Do not panic. Time and a few tips from this article may help rekindle their interest.

Adults know how important it is for their teenagers to read. Reading is not just important while teens are in school but good reading skills are essential to future success in the workplace. Making a pitch for reading can be a real challenge. If you are the parent of a teenager who has lost interest in reading or never liked it much, here are some suggestions for connecting with your child about books and reading.

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