



## Sample Texts by Genre and Grade Span

The purpose of this document is not to provide a set of required reading for students, but to show samples of a wide range of texts of the appropriate level of complexity for each grade span in a variety of genres. These samples are intended to help educators select texts of a similar range, complexity, and quality to use in their own classrooms. Genre choice is not limited by the examples in this document. Teachers are encouraged to select readings from a wide variety of genres including online texts, magazines/periodicals, and newspapers. Since these genres change content frequently, samples are not provided.

Tools to help educators determine the appropriate placement of texts are also included in the English/Language Arts Support materials. Two examples showing the application of those tools to texts selected are also included. While each text is placed into a grade-level span, determinations for use in instruction should be made by schools based on Reader and Task Considerations.

### **Kindergarten-Grade 1**

#### **Fiction: Classic and Contemporary**

*Are You My Mother?* by Eastman, P.D.  
*Arthur* (series) by Brown, Marc  
*Blueberries for Sal* by McCloskey, Robert  
*Caps for Sale* by Slobodkina, Esphyr  
*Cat in the Hat* by Geisel, Theodor  
*Corduroy* by Freeman, Don  
*Drive* by Clement, Nathan  
*Evie Finds Her Family Tree* by Ransburg, Ashley  
*Frog and Toad Are Friends* (series) by Lobel, Arnold  
*Goodnight Moon* by Brown, Margaret  
*Green Eggs and Ham* by Geisel, Theodor  
*H is for Hoosier: An Indiana Alphabet* by Langton, Brian  
*I Wish That I Had Duck Feet* by LeSieg, Theo  
*If You Give a Mouse a Cookie* (series) by Numeroff, Laura  
*Little Bear* by Minarik, Else Holmelund  
*The Little Engine That Could* by Piper, Watty  
*Make Way for Ducklings* by McCloskey, Robert  
*May I Bring A Friend?* by De Regniers, Beatrice  
*Millions of Cats* by Gag, Wanda  
*The Mitten* by Brett, Jan  
*A Mother for Choco* by Kasza, Keiko  
*Owl at Home* by Lobel, Arnold  
*Put Me in the Zoo* by Lopshire, Robert  
*Regards to the Man in the Moon* by Keats, Ezra Jack  
*The Snowy Day* by Keats, Ezra Jack  
*Strega Nona* by dePaola, Tomie  
*The Tale of Peter Rabbit* by Potter, Beatrix  
*The Three Little Pigs* by Kellogg, Steven  
*The Very Hungry Caterpillar* by Carle, Eric  
*Where the Wild Things Are* by Sendak, Maurice



*The Wolf's Chicken Stew* by Kasza, Keiko

### **Poetry**

*The Big Red Barn* by Brown, Margaret Wise  
*Chicken Soup with Rice* by Sendak, Maurice  
*Flicker Flash* by Graham, Joan Bransfield  
*I Know an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Fly* by Rounds, Glen  
*James Marshall's Mother Goose* by Marshall, James  
"Keep a Poem in Your Pocket" by De Regniers, Beatrice  
*Owl Moon* by Yolen, Jane  
*Read-Aloud Rhymes for the Very Young* selected by Prelutsky, Jack  
*The Wheels on the Bus* by Zelinsky, Paul  
*When the Frost Is on the Punkin* by Riley, James Whitcomb  
*You Read to Me, I'll Read to You* by Ciardi, John

### **Folklore/ Fairy Tales**

*Fairytales News* by Hawkins, Colin and Jacqui  
*Goldilocks and the Three Bears* by Brett, Jan  
*John Henry: An American Legend* by Keats, Ezra Jack  
*Lon Po Po: A Red Riding Hood Story from China* by Young, Ed  
*Paul Bunyan* by Kellogg, Steven  
*Pecos Bill* by Kellogg, Steven  
*The Story of Johnny Appleseed* by Alikei  
*Three Billy Goats Gruff* by Asbjornsen, Peter Christen  
*You Read to Me, I'll Read to You: Very Short Fairy Tales to Read Together* by Hoberman, Mary Ann

### **Biography/Autobiography**

*George Washington's Teeth* by Chandra, Deborah and Comora, Madeleine  
*Honest Abe* by Kunhardt, Edith  
*If a Bus Could Talk: The Story of Rosa Parks* by Ringgold, Faith  
*If Only I Had a Horn: Young Louis Armstrong* by Jenkins, Leonard  
*A Picture Book of George Washington Carver* by Adler, David  
*William Shakespeare and the Globe* by Alikei

### **Nonfiction: Science, Social Studies, and Mathematics**

*Anno's Math Games* by Anno, Mitsumasa  
*A Child's Book of Art: Discover Great Paintings* by Micklethwait, Lucy  
*Corn Is Maize: The Gift of the Indians* by Alikei  
*Digging Up Dinosaurs* by Alikei  
*How Big Is a Foot?* by Myllar, Rolf  
*How Tall, How Short, How Far Away* by Adler, David  
*My Five Senses* by Alikei  
*Pumpkin Circle: Story of a Garden* by Levenson, George  
*Sharks* by Gibbons, Gail  
*Ten Black Dots* by Crews, Donald  
*What Comes in 2's, 3's and 4's?* by Aker, Suzanne



## Grades 2-3

### Fiction: Classic and Contemporary

- Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day* by Viorst, Judith  
*Amazing Grace* by Hoffman, Mary  
*Amelia Bedelia* (series) by Parish, Peggy  
*Bad Kitty Gets a Bath* by Bruel, Nick  
*Because of Winn-Dixie* by DiCamillo, Kate  
*Boxcar Children* by Warner, Gertrude Chandler  
*The Caboose Who Got Loose* by Peet, Bill  
*Cam Jansen* (series) by Adler, David  
*Freckle Juice* by Blume, Judy  
*Frog and Toad Are Friends* (series) by Lobel, Arnold  
*Henry and Mudge* (series) by Rylant, Cynthia  
*The Hundred Dresses* by Estes, Eleanor  
*Knights of the Kitchen Table* by Scieszka, Jon  
*A Letter to Amy* by Keats, Ezra Jack  
*Little Red Writing* by Holub, Joan  
*Molly's Pilgrim* by Cohen, Barbara  
*Mrs. Piggle Wiggle* by MacDonald, Betty  
*Nancy Drew and the Clue Crew* (series) by Keene, Carolyn  
*Pippi Longstocking* by Lindgren, Astrid  
*Ramona* (series) by Cleary, Beverly  
*Sarah, Plain and Tall* by MacLachlan, Patricia  
*Song and Dance Man* by Ackerman, Karen  
*The Stories Julian Tells* by Cameron, Ann  
*Velveteen Rabbit* by Williams, Margery  
*The Year of Billy Miller* by Henkes, Kevin

### Poetry

- Bananas in My Ears* by Rosen, Michael  
*Big Book of Poetry* by Martin, Bill Jr.  
*Chicken Soup with Rice* by Sendak, Maurice  
"City Trees" by Millay, Edna St. Vincent  
*Food Hates You Too* by Weinstock, Robert  
*Frankenstein Makes a Sandwich* by Rex, Adam  
"Grandpa's Stories" by Hughes, Langston  
*A Light in the Attic* by Silverstein, Shel  
"The Raggedy Man" by Riley, James Whitcomb  
*Where the Sidewalk Ends* by Silverstein, Shel

### Folklore/Fairy Tales

- Anansi and the Moss-Covered Rock* by Kimmel, Eric  
*Bringing the Rain to Katiti Plain: A Nandi Tale* by Aardema, Verna  
*The Gingerbread Man* by Aylesworth, Jim  
"How the Leopard Got His Spots" by Kipling, Rudyard  
*It's Mine!* by Lionni, Leo  
*The Legend of the Bluebonnet* by dePaola, Tomie



*The Legend of the Indian Paintbrush* by dePaola, Tomie  
*Lon Po Po* by Young, Ed  
*Ming Lo Moves the Mountain* by Lobel, Arnold  
*Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters* by Steptoe, John  
*Old Mikamba Had a Farm* by Isadora, Rachel  
*The Paper Crane* by Bang, Molly  
*Paul Bunyan* by Kellogg, Steven  
*Saint George and the Dragon* by Hodges, Margaret  
*Thunder Rose* by Nelson, Kadir  
*Why Mosquitoes Buzz in People's Ears* by Aardema, Verna

**Biography/Autobiography**

*Albert Einstein: Young Thinker* by Hammontree, Marie  
*Frederick Douglass Fights for Freedom* by Davidson, Margaret  
*George Washington* by Harness, Cheryl  
*Henry's Freedom Box: A True Story from the Underground Railroad* by Levine, Ellen  
*I Have a Dream: The Story of Martin Luther King* by Davidson, Margaret  
*Me...Jane* by McDonnell, Patrick  
*Paul Revere* by Sullivan, George  
*The Story of George Washington Carver* by Moore, Eva  
*A Splash of Red* by Bryant, Jen  
*Thomas Edison* by Sullivan, George  
*Through My Eyes* by Bridges, Ruby  
*"Wanted Dead or Alive": The True Story of Harriet Tubman* by McGovern, Ann

**Nonfiction: Science, Social Studies, and Mathematics**

*Buddy: The First Seeing Eye Dog* by Moore, Eva  
*How Much is a Million?* by Schwartz, David  
*Just a Second* by Jenkins, Steve  
*Living and Nonliving* by Hicks, Kelli  
*The Magic School Bus* (series) by Cole, Joanna  
*Miss Lady Bird's Wildflowers* by Johnson, Lady Bird  
*So You Want to Be President?* by St. George, Judith  
*The Star-Spangled Banner* by Spier, Peter  
*Tornadoes* by Simon, Seymour  
*Tree Lady* by Hopkins, H. Joseph  
*Weather Words and What They Mean* by Gibbons, Gail



## Grades 4-5

### Fiction: Classic and Contemporary

*20,000 Leagues Under the Sea* by Verne, Jules  
*Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* by Carroll, Lewis  
*The BFG* by Dahl, Roald  
*Bridge to Terabithia* by Peterson, Katherine  
*Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* by Dahl, Roald  
*Charlotte's Web* by White, E.B.  
*Esperanza Rising* by Ryan, Pam Muñoz  
*Flora & Ulysses* by DiCamillo, Kate  
*Frindle* by Clements, Andrew  
*From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler* by Konigsburg, E.L.  
*The Giver* by Lowry, Lois  
*Harriet the Spy* by Fitzhugh, Louise  
*Henry Huggins* by Cleary, Beverly  
*The Invention of Hugo Cabret: A Novel in Words and Pictures* by Selznick, Brian  
*Jumanji* by Van Allsburg, Chris  
*The Lemonade War* (series) by Davies, Jacqueline  
*The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* by Lewis, C.S.  
*Maniac Magee* by Spinelli, Jerry  
*Mary Poppins* by Travers, P.L.  
*Mr. Popper's Penguins* by Atwater, Florence and Richard  
*Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH* by O'Brien, Robert  
*Poppy* by Avi  
*The Secret Garden* by Burnett, Frances Hodgson  
*Shiloh* (trilogy) by Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds  
*Sidekicks* by Santat, Dan  
*Sunder* by Armstrong, William Howard  
*The Tale of Despereaux* by DiCamillo, Kate  
*Tuck Everlasting* by Babbitt, Natalie  
*The Westing Game* by Raskin, Ellen  
*The Wizard of Oz* by Baum, Frank  
*Where the Red Fern Grows* by Rawls, Wilson  
*The Whipping Boy* by Fleischman, Sid

### Historical Fiction

*Abigail* by Sperry, Portia Howe and Donaldson, Lois  
*And Then What Happened, Paul Revere?* by Fritz, Jean  
*Bud, Not Buddy* by Curtis, Christopher Paul  
*Crispin* by Avi  
*Forge* by Anderson, Laurie Halse  
*Island of the Blue Dolphins* by O'Dell, Scott  
*Johnny Tremain* by Forbes, Esther  
*The Journal of William Thomas Emerson: A Revolutionary War Patriot* by Denenberg, Barry  
*The Keeping Room* by Myers, Anna  
*Little House in the Big Woods* by Wilder, Laura Ingalls  
*Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy* by Gary Schmidt



*The Mighty Miss Malone* by Curtis, Christopher Paul  
*Moon Over Manifest* by Vanderpool, Clare  
*Number The Stars* by Lowry, Lois  
*One Crazy Summer* by Williams-Garcia, Rita  
*P.S. Be Eleven* by Williams-Garcia, Rita  
*Riding Freedom* by Ryan, Pam Muñoz  
*Salt* by Frost, Helen  
*The Secret Soldier: The Story of Deborah Sampson* by McGovern, Ann  
*The Sign of the Beaver* by Speare, Elizabeth George  
*Watsons Go to Birmingham – 1963* by Curtis, Christopher Paul  
*The Winter of Red Snow: The Revolutionary War Diary of Abigail Jane Stewart, Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, 1777* by Gregory, Kristiana

### Short Stories

“Rikki Tikki Tavi” by Kipling, Rudyard  
Selections from *Baseball in April and Other Stories* by Soto, Gary  
“Zlateh the Goat” by Singer, Isaac Bashevis

### Poetry

“A Barefoot Boy” by Riley, James Whitcomb  
*Leaf by Leaf* by Rogasky, Barbara  
“My First Memory (of Librarians)” by Giovanni, Nikki  
“Casey at the Bat” by Thayer, Ernest Lawrence  
*Words with Wings: A Treasury of African American Poetry and Art* by Rochelle, Belinda

### Folklore/Mythology

*Aesop’s Fables* by Aesop  
*The Days When the Animals Talked* by Faulkner, William J.  
*The Merry Adventures of Robin Hood* by Pyle, Howard  
*The Rough-Face Girl* by Rafe, Martin

### Biography/Autobiography

*Lost Star: The Story of Amelia Earhart* by Lauber, Patricia  
*James Whitcomb Riley: Young Poet* by Mitchell, Minnie Bell and Dunham, Montrew  
*Nelson Mandela* by Nelson, Kadir  
*The Story of Jackie Robinson, Bravest Man in Baseball* by Davidson, Margaret  
*The Story of Thomas Alva Edison: The Wizard of Menlo Park* by Cousins, Margaret  
*Satchel Paige Don’t Look Back* by Adler, David

### Nonfiction: Science, Social Studies, and Mathematics

*50 Simple Things Kids Can Do to Save the Earth* by the EarthWorks Group  
*George Vs. George: The American Revolution as Seen from Both Sides* by Schanzer, Rosalyn  
*Math Curse* by Scieszka, Jon  
*Shh! We’re Writing the Constitution* by Fritz, Jean  
*Sir Cumference and the First Round Table: A Math Adventure* by Neuschwander, Cindy  
*Working with Fractions* by Adler, David



## Grades 6-8

### Fiction: Classic and Contemporary

*The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* by Twain, Mark  
*The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes* by Doyle, Arthur Conan  
*And Then There Were None* by Christie, Agatha  
*The Call of the Wild* by London, Jack  
*Flowers for Algernon* by Keys, Daniel  
*Hatchet* by Paulsen, Gary  
*The Hobbit* by Tolkien, J.R.R.  
*The Last Dragonslayer* by Fforde, Jasper  
*Little Women* by Alcott, Louisa May  
*The Pearl* by Steinbeck, John  
*Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* by Taylor, Mildred D.  
*The Time Machine* by Wells, H.G.  
*When You Reach Me* by Stead, Rebecca

### Historical Fiction

*Bull Run* by Fleischman, Paul  
*Catherine, Called Birdy* by Cushman, Karen  
*Oliver Twist* by Dickens, Charles  
*The Prince and the Pauper* by Twain, Mark

### Short Stories

"A Day's Wait" by Hemingway, Ernest  
"The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County" by Twain, Mark  
"The Tell-Tale Heart" by Poe, Edgar Allen  
"Thank You Ma'am" by Hughes, Langston

### Poetry

"The Highwayman" by Noyes, Alfred  
"I Hear America Singing" by Whitman, Walt  
"I, Too, Sing America" by Hughes, Langston  
"Jabberwocky" by Carroll, Lewis  
"The Midnight Ride of Paul Revere" by Longfellow, Henry Wadsworth  
"O Captain! My Captain!" by Whitman, Walt  
*Odes to Common Things* by Neruda, Pablo  
"The Railway Train" by Dickinson, Emily  
"The Road Not Taken" by Frost, Robert  
"This is Just to Say" by Williams, William Carlos

### Plays

*The Miracle Worker* by Gibson, William  
*The Mousetrap and Other Plays* by Christie, Agatha  
*Our Town* by Wilder, Thornton



**Folklore/Mythology**

*Black Ships Before Troy: The Story of "The Iliad"* by Sutcliff, Rosemary  
*Opening Pandora's Box* by Addis, Ferdie  
*"The People Could Fly"* by Hamilton, Virginia  
*Summer of the Mariposas* by McCall, Guadalupe Garcia

**Biography/Autobiography**

*Charles Dickens and the Street Children of London* by Warren, Andrea  
*The Diary of a Young Girl* by Frank, Anne  
*Living Up the Street* by Soto, Gary  
*"The President Has Been Shot!": The Assassination of John F. Kennedy* by Swanson, James L.  
*The Voice that Challenged a Nation: Marian Anderson and the Struggle for Equal Rights* by Freedman, Russell

**Nonfiction: Science, Social Studies, and Mathematics**

*Farewell to Manzanar* by Houston, Jeanne Watzkuzki  
*Go: A Kidd's Guide to Graphic Design* by Kidd, Chip  
*Hiroshima* by Hersey, John  
*Lincoln: A Photobiography* by Freedman, Russell  
*The Mighty Mars Rovers* by Rusch, Elizabeth  
*Space Station Science: Life in Free Fall* by Dyson, Marianne

Sample





## Grades 9-10

### Fiction: Classic and Contemporary

*The Aeneid* by Virgil  
*A Girl of the Limberlost* by Stratton-Porter, Gene  
*Animal Farm* by Orwell, George  
*Fahrenheit 451* by Bradbury, Ray  
*In the Time of Butterflies* by Alvarez, Julia  
*The Joy Luck Club* by Tan, Amy  
*The Metamorphosis* by Kafka, Franz  
*The Odyssey* by Homer  
*Of Mice and Men* by Steinbeck, John  
*The Once and Future King* by White, T. H.  
*The Secret Life of Bees* Kidd, Sue Monk  
*Things Fall Apart* by Achebe, Chinua  
*To Kill a Mockingbird* by Lee, Harper

### Historical Fiction

*A Tale of Two Cities* by Dickens, Charles  
*The Book Thief* by Zusak, Marcus  
*Cry, the Beloved Country* by Paton, Alan  
*The Killer Angels* by Shaara, Michael  
*The Massacre at Fall Creek* by West, Jessamyn

### Short Stories

"The Gift of the Magi" by Henry, O.  
"I Stand Here Ironing" by Olsen, Tillie  
"The Lottery" by Jackson, Shirley  
"Young Goodman Brown" by Hawthorne, Nathaniel

### Poetry

"The Bean Eaters" by Brooks, Gwendolyn  
"Human Family" by Angelou, Maya  
"The Raven" by Poe, Edgar Allen  
"Sonnet 18" by Shakespeare, William  
"We Grow Accustomed to the Dark" by Dickinson, Emily

### Plays

*The Crucible* by Miller, Arthur  
*The Glass Menagerie* by Williams, Tennessee  
*Oedipus Rex* by Sophocles  
*Pygmalion* by Shaw, George Bernard  
*Romeo and Juliet* by Shakespeare, William



**Biography/Autobiography**

*Blue Highways* by Moon, William Least Heat  
*A Girl Named Zippy* by Kimmel, Haven  
*Growing Up* by Baker, Russell  
*Night* by Wiesel, Elie  
*The Story of My Life* by Keller, Helen

**Nonfiction: Science, Social Studies, and Mathematics**

*Constitution of the United States of America: The Preamble*  
*A Hoosier Holiday* by Dreiser, Theodore  
*The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Skloot, Rebecca  
*Lives of a Cell: Notes of a Biology Watcher* by Thomas, Lewis

**Essays and Speeches**

“Choice: A Tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.” by Walker, Alice  
“Declaration of Independence” by Jefferson, Thomas  
“Letter from Birmingham Jail” by King, Jr., Martin Luther  
“The Gettysburg Address” by Lincoln, Abraham  
“I Have a Dream” by King, Jr., Martin Luther  
“Inaugural Address, 1961” by Kennedy, John F.  
Selections from “Pilgrim at Tinker Creek” by Dillard, Annie  
“Speech to the Second Virginia Convention” by Henry, Patrick

Sample



## **Grades 11-12**

### **Fiction: Classic and Contemporary**

*Crime and Punishment* by Dostoevsky, Fyodor  
*Don Quixote* by Cervantes Saavedra, Miguel de  
*Frankenstein* by Shelley, Mary  
*The Great Gatsby* by Fitzgerald, F. Scott  
*Heart of Darkness* by Conrad, Joseph  
*House on Mango Street* by Cisneros, Sandra  
*Jane Eyre* by Bronte, Charlotte  
*The Magnificent Ambersons* by Tarkington, Booth  
*The Princess Bride* by Goldman, William  
*The Scarlet Letter* by Hawthorne, Nathaniel  
*The Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie* by Bradley, Alan

### **Historical Fiction**

*A Farewell to Arms* by Hemingway, Ernest  
*The Grapes of Wrath* by Steinbeck, John  
*Pride and Prejudice* by Austen, Jane

### **Short Stories**

“The Cask of Amontillado” by Poe, Edgar Allan  
“Harrison Bergeron” by Vonnegut, Kurt  
“Home” by Chekov, Anton  
“The White Heron” by Jewett, Sarah Orne

### **Folklore/Mythology**

*Beowulf*  
*Mules and Men* by Hurston, Zora Neale  
*The Power of Myth* by Campbell, Joseph

### **Poetry**

“Because I Could Not Stop for Death” by Dickenson, Emily  
*The Canterbury Tales* by Chaucer, Geoffrey  
“The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock” by Elliot, T. S.  
“Mending Wall” by Frost, Robert  
“Ode on a Grecian Urn” by Keats, John  
“The Second Coming” by Yeats, William Butler  
“Sestina” by Bishop, Elizabeth  
“Song of Myself” by Whitman, Walt

### **Plays**

*A Raisin in the Sun* by Hansberry, Lorraine  
*Death of a Salesman* by Miller, Arthur  
*Hamlet* by Shakespeare, William  
*Waiting for Godot* by Beckett, Samuel



**Biography/Autobiography**

- 1776* by McCullough, David
- Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass* by Douglass, Frederick
- Barrio Boy* by Galarza, Ernesto
- Tuesdays with Morrie* by Albom, Mitch
- Walden* by Thoreau, Henry David
- The Woman Warrior* by Kingston, Maxine Hong

**Nonfiction: Science, Social Studies, and Mathematics**

- A Brief History of Time* by Hawking, Stephen
- Charles Kuralt's America* by Kuralt, Charles
- Democracy in America* by de Tocqueville, Alexis
- The Mathematical Tourist: New and Updated Snapshots of Modern Mathematics* by Peterson, Ivars
- In the Spirit of Crazy Horse* by Matthiessen, Peter

**Essays and Speeches**

- "Day of Infamy" by Roosevelt, Franklin D.
- Selections from *Indiana Winter* by Neville, Susan
- "Self-Reliance" by Emerson, Ralph Waldo
- "Straw into Gold" by Cisneros, Sandra
- "We Will Never Surrender" by Churchill, Winston

Sample