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
*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
Fairytail 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 Aliki
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 Aliki

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 Aliki
Digging Up Dinosaurs by Aliki
How Big Is a Foot? by Myllar, Rolf
How Tall, How Short, How Far Away by Adler, David
My Five Senses by Aliki
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

Districts/schools are encouraged to generate an original list for their corporation
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

08/05/2015  Districts/schools are encouraged to generate an original list for their corporation
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
Sounder 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

Districts/schools are encouraged to generate an original list for their corporation
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

Districts/schools are encouraged to generate an original list for their corporation
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 Watkazuki
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

Districts/schools are encouraged to generate an original list for their corporation
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 by 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

Districts/schools are encouraged to generate an original list for their corporation
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

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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