

DIFFERENTIATED READING LIST

Provided by Dr. Katie McKnight's Engaging Learners



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Dr. Katie McKnight*

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DIFFERENTIATED READING LIST EXAMPLES

GRADE 4

Center(s)

Reading Together

Explanation of Reading Lists

Literacy and Learning Centers require you to divide your students into small groups. I recommend that you group students not based on ability, but based on the texts they choose. In other words, each student selects the text that most interests him/her, and is placed in a group with the other students who picked the same text. This doesn't mean anything goes! The teacher or curriculum director should supply a selection of texts that all address the same basic literary themes, cover the same content, or address the same essential question.

It's ok to start small. Work on adding one or two reading lists every year.

You'll see that giving students a choice in what to read brings about significant gains in their engagement, productivity, and growth. But maybe the greatest advantage of giving students a choice of reading material, is that students of varied ability levels and interests *all* have an opportunity to engage with their reading.

The **Text Complexity Model** has three equal components. Choosing which texts to include in your class reading lists means *you must do more than consider quantitative measures!*

The three components to consider are:

1. Quantitative Measures.

These factors are difficult or impossible for a person to evaluate efficiently so they are typically measured by computer software. Examples of quantitative measures include students' standardized test scores and a books' assigned Lexile scores.

2. Qualitative Dimensions.

These characteristics must be evaluated by a teacher. They include considering levels of meaning (for literary texts) or purpose (for informational texts), as well as structure, language conventionality and clarity, and knowledge demands.

3. Reader and Task Considerations.

This component is best evaluated by a teacher like you, who understands his or her students. It requires assessing the reader's motivation, knowledge, and experiences, as well as the assessing the purpose and complexity of a text.

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It helps to review examples of reading lists that other teachers have used effectively. Please use these examples as inspiration. Feel free to borrow what works and adapt as necessary to suit your needs and the needs of your students.

The book lists below represent a selection of fictional and non-fictional texts that are suitable for use with the Literacy and Learning Center model. The works listed were researched, vetted and chosen by the Chapters Group, a leading provider of hardcover and paperback literature as well as textbooks. More selections and materials are available at the **Chapters Group website at chaptersgroup.com**.

Explore the EngagingLearners.com website for other resources about differentiated reading (webinars, tips, etc.) to help you create your own reading lists.

Remember, coming up with reading lists is an on-going process. Even after you find a “perfect” booklist, realize that it may not be perfect forever. As you find new titles, as your school’s curriculum changes, and as student interests evolve, it’s likely you’ll want to make revisions and adjustments.

Fourth Grade		
<i>Topic: Problem Solving Social Studies & Science</i>		
<i>Essential Question: How can someone become a better scientific observer?</i>		
<i>Text Complexity</i>	<i>Book Title</i>	<i>Author</i>
2nd-4th grade	A More Perfect Union	Betsy Maestro
4th-7th grade	Let's Think About Sustainable Energy	Vic Parker
3rd-7th grade	A Kid's Guide to America's Bill of Rights	Kathleen Krull
4th-8th grade	The Quest for the Tree Kangaroo: An Expedition to the Cloud Forest of New Guinea	Sy Montgomery
4th-6th grade	The Story of Fossil Fuels	William B. Rice
1st-4th grade	Understanding the Bill of Rights	Sally Senzell Isaacs

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Fourth Grade <i>Topic: Journeys Fiction</i>		
<i>Essential Question: What can we learn about ourselves when we leave home?</i>		
<i>Text Complexity</i>	<i>Book Title</i>	<i>Author</i>
K-4th grade	Apples to Oregon	Deborah Hopkinson
4th-8th grade	Bewitched in Oz	Laura J. Burns
3rd-7th grade	Dear Mr. Henshaw	Beverly Cleary
3rd-7th grade	Drita, My Homegirl	Jenny Lombard
3rd-7th grade	Elijah of Buxton	Christopher Paul Curtis
4th-7th grade	Eliza's Freedom Road: An Underground Railroad Diary	Jerdine Nolan
3rd-4th grade	Emma's New Beginning	Jessica Gunderson
3rd-6th grade	Gulliver's Travels	John Lemke
3rd-6th grade	In the Year of the Boar and Jackie Robinson	Bette Bao Lord
3rd-6th grade	Little House on Rocky Ridge	Roger Lea MacBride
3rd-6th grade	Sarah, Plain and Tall	Patricia MacLachlan
4th-7th grade	The Drum of Destiny	Christopher Stevenson
3rd-5th grade	The Last Rider: The Final Days of the Pony Express	J. Gunderson
4th-6th grade	The One and Only Ivan	Katherine Applegate
3rd-7th grade	The Wanderer	Sharon Creech
2nd-4th grade	Time Voyage (Return to Titanic)	Steve Brezenoff
2nd-4th grade	When Jessie Came Across the Sea	Amy Hest

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Fourth Grade		
<i>Topic: Earth's Shifting Surfaces</i>		
<i>Essential Question: How can humans prepare for the unpredictability of nature?</i>		
<i>Text Complexity</i>	<i>Book Title</i>	<i>Author</i>
2nd-5th grade	Earthquakes and Other Natural Disasters	Harriet Griffey
3rd-5th grade	Earth's Changing Crust	Rebecca Harman
3rd-4th grade	Endangered Energy: Investigating the Scarcity of Fossil Fuels	Rani Iyer
3rd-4th grade	Endangered Rain Forests: Investigating Rain Forests in Crisis	Rani Iyer
3rd-4th grade	Endangered Rivers: Investigating Rivers in Crisis	Rani Iyer
3rd-4th grade	Endangered Oceans: Investigating Oceans	Rani Iyer
2nd-4th grade	Erosion	Becky Olien
K-4th grade	Erosion: Changing Earth's Surface	Robin Koontz
1st-8th grade	National Parks	Erin McHugh
3rd-4th grade	When Volcanoes Erupt	Nel Yomtov

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Fourth Grade <i>Topic: Changes</i>		
<i>Essential Question: What motivates people to try and change the world?</i>		
<i>Text Complexity</i>	<i>Book Title</i>	<i>Author</i>
2nd-5th grade	28 Days: Moments in Black History That Changed the World	Charles R. Smith, Jr. and Shane W. Evans
3rd-4th grade	Jake Burton Carpenter and the Snowboard	Michael O'Hearn
K-4th grade	National Geographic Readers: Caterpillar to Butterfly	Laura F. Marsh
4th-6th grade	Renewable Energy: Discover the Fuel of the Future with 20 Projects	Joshua Sneiderman and Erin Twamley
3rd-4th grade	Rosa Parks and the Montgomery Bus Boycott	Connie Colwell Miller
5th-8th grade	The Constitution and the Bill of Rights	Roben Alarcon
3rd-5th grade	The U.S. Constitution, Bill of Rights, and a New Nation	Steven Otfinoski
3rd-7th grade	They Stood Alone!: 25 Men and Women Who Made a Difference	Sandra McLeod Humphrey
3rd-7th grade	Who Was Eleanor Roosevelt?	Gare Thompson

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Fourth Grade <i>Topic: Brave Adventures Fiction</i>		
<i>Essential Question: What sets a hero apart from other people?</i>		
<i>Text Complexity</i>	<i>Book Title</i>	<i>Author</i>
2nd-4th grade	A Crazy Day With Cobras	Mary Pope Osborne
1st-4th grade	Amber Was Brave, Essie Was Smart	Vera B. Williams
K-3rd	Brave Girl: Clara and the Shirtwaist Makers' Strike of 1909	Michelle Markel
1st-4th grade	Buzz Beaker and the Growing Goo	Cari Meister
3rd-7th grade	Charlie and the Chocolate Factory	Roald Dahl
3rd-7th grade	Danny, the Champion of the World	Roald Dahl
3rd-6th grade	Frindle	Andrew Clements
4th-8th grade	Guys Read: Other Worlds	Jon Scieszka
4th-8th grade	Jacob's Rescue: A Holocaust Story	Malka Drucker
2nd-4th grade	Jake Drake, Bully Buster	Andrew Clements
4th-7th grade	Number the Stars	Lois Lowry
3rd-7th grade	Riding Freedom	Pam Munoz Ryan
3rd-7th grade	Sailing to Freedom	Martha Bennett Stiles
3rd-7th grade	Sideways Stories from Wayside School	Louis Sachar
4th-7th grade	Survival Stories of the Almost Brave	Jen White
3rd-7th grade	Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing	Judy Blume
3rd-7th grade	The Janitor's Boy	Andrew Clements
4th-9th grade	The Red Pyramid	Rick Riordan

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Fourth Grade		
<i>Topic: Brave Adventures Non-Fiction</i>		
<i>Essential Question: What is a courageous act?</i>		
<i>Text Complexity</i>	<i>Book Title</i>	<i>Author</i>
2nd-5th grade	A Time to Be Brave	Joan Betty Stuchner
3rd-7th grade	A Voice of Her Own: The Story of Phillis Wheatley, Slave	Kathryn Lasky
2nd-4th grade	Clara Barton: Angel of the Battlefield	TIME Magazine
2nd-5th grade	Climbing Everest	Gail Herman
4th-5th grade	Dolley Madison: First Lady of the United States	Melissa Carosella
3rd-6th grade	George vs. George: The American Revolution as Seen from Both Sides	Rosalyn Schanzer
3rd-4th grade	George Washington: Leading a New Nation	Matt Doeden
1st-5th grade	Irena Sendler and the Children of the Warsaw Ghetto	Susan Goldman
4th-6th grade	Martha Washington: America's First Lady	Jean Brown Wagoner
1st-4th grade	Nobody Owns the Sky: The Story of "Brave Bessie" Coleman	Reeve Lindbergh
3rd-5th grade	Who Was Annie Oakley?	Stephanie Spinner

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Fourth Grade		
<i>Topic: Challenges in Traditional Literature</i>		
<i>Essential Question: Why is it important to know where things came from?</i>		
<i>Text Complexity</i>	<i>Book Title</i>	<i>Author</i>
2nd-5th grade	Aesop's Fables	Ann McGovern
3rd-7th grade	The Chocolate Touch	Patrick Skene Catling
4th-6th grade	Jason and the Golden Fleece	Nel Yomtov
K-5th grade	John Henry	Julius Lester
4th-7th grade	Not One Damsel in Distress	Jane Yolen
4th-6th grade	Perseus and Medusa	Blake Hoena
4th-7th grade	Robin Hood	Aaron Shepard
4th-7th grade	Sir Gawain and the Green Knight	Michael Morpurgo
3rd-7th grade	Tales from the Odyssey, Part 1	Mary Pope Osborne
3rd-7th grade	The BFG	Roald Dahl
2nd-5th grade	The Dragon Prince	Laurence Yep
2nd-4th grade	The Elephant's Friend and Other Tales from Ancient India	Marcia Williams
K-4th grade	The Little Red Ant and the Great Big Crumb	Shirley Climo
2nd-4th grade	The Seven Voyages of Sinbad	Martin Powell
K-4th grade	The Tall Tale of Paul Bunyan	Martin Powell
K-4th grade	The Weaving of a Dream	Marilee Heyer
4th-8th grade	Theseus and the Minotaur	Nel Yomtov
K-4th grade	When the Sun and the Moon Live in the Sky	Elphinstone Dayrell

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Fourth Grade Topic: Science		
<i>Essential Question: What makes people curious about the world?</i>		
<i>Text Complexity</i>	<i>Book Title</i>	<i>Author</i>
4th-7th grade	21st Century: Mysteries of Deep Space	Stephanie Paris
4th-7th grade	22nd Century: Future of Space	Stephanie Kuligowski
3rd-6th grade	Aliens and UFOs	Lori Hile
4th-8th grade	Battling Extinction	Tamra B. Orr
K-5th grade	Bones	Seymour Simon
4th-5th grade	Destined for Space: Our Story of Exploration	Don Nardo
3rd-5th grade	Eyes and Ears	Seymour Simon
K-4th grade	Feel the Wind	Arthur Dorros
4th-7th grade	Forensic Science Investigator	Tamra B. Orr
3rd-6th grade	Mysteries of Alien Visitors and Abductions	Kathryn Walker
3rd-5th grade	Nuclear Energy	Chris Oxlade
3rd-6th grade	Our Solar System	Seymour Simon
4th-7th grade	The Polar Bear Scientists	Peter Lourie
4th-8th grade	Restoring Structures	Jennifer Zeiger
3rd-4th grade	Take Off! All About Airplanes	Jennifer Prior
4th-8th grade	The Park Scientists: Gila Monsters, Geysers and Grizzly Bears	Mary Kay Carson
2nd-4th grade	The Secrets of Earth	Emma Carlson-Berne
3rd-4th grade	The Worst Earthquakes of All Time	Mary Englar
2nd-5th grade	Tsunamis and Other Natural Disasters	Mary Pope Osborne

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Fourth Grade <i>Topic: Amazing Discoveries</i>		
<i>Essential Question: Why don't great inventors give up?</i>		
<i>Text Complexity</i>	<i>Book Title</i>	<i>Author</i>
3rd-4th grade	Alexander Graham Bell and the Telephone	Jennifer Fandel
3rd-4th grade	Benjamin Franklin: An American Genius	Kay Melchisedich Olson
4th-7th grade	Earth and Space Science: The Wonder of Our Solar System	Lisa Greathouse
3rd-4th grade	Johann Gutenberg and the Printing Press	Kay Melchisedich Olson
3rd-4th grade	Levi Strauss and Blue Jeans	National Geographic
4th-7th grade	Out of the Darkness: The Story of Louis Braille	Russell Freedman
3rd-4th grade	Steve Jobs, Steve Wozniak, and the Personal Computer	Donald B. Lemke
3rd-5th grade	The Television	Richard Spilsbury
3rd-7th grade	What Color is My World?	Kareem Abdul-Jabbar et al.
2nd-4th grade	What's the Big Idea, Ben Franklin?	Jean Fritz

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Fourth Grade <i>Topic: Journeys Non-Fiction</i>		
<i>Essential Question: How does discovering new lands expand our knowledge?</i>		
<i>Text Complexity</i>	<i>Book Title</i>	<i>Author</i>
4th-7th grade	A Journey to the New World, Mayflower 1620	Kathryn Lasky
2nd-5th grade	Hannah's Journey: The Story of an Immigrant Girl	Marissa Moss
2nd-5th grade	I Survived the Sinking of the Titanic, 1912	Lauren Tarshis
3rd-5th grade	If Your Name Was Changed at Ellis Island	Ellen Levine
3rd-5th grade	Surviving the Journey: The Story of the Oregon Trail	Danny Kravitz
3rd-4th grade	The Buffalo Soldiers and the American West	Jason Glaser
2nd-4th grade	Where Do You Think You're Going, Christopher Columbus?	Jean Fritz
3rd-7th grade	Who Was Amelia Earhart?	Kate Boehm Jerome
3rd-7th grade	Who Was Neil Armstrong?	Roberta Edwards