

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 7

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.

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Seventh Grade <i>Topic: Personal Courage Non-Fiction</i>		
Essential Question: What can we learn from the courage of others?		
<i>Text Complexity</i>	<i>Book Title</i>	<i>Author</i>
5th-8th grade	Behind Rebel Lines: The Incredible Story of Emma Edmonds, Civil War Spy	Seymour Reit
5th-9th grade	Code Talker: A Novel About the Navajo Marines of World War Two	Joseph Bruchac
5th-8th grade	Courage Has No Color, The True Story of the Triple Nickles: America's First Black Paratroopers	Tanya Lee Stone
7th-12th grade	Fire from the Rock	Sharon Draper
4th-8th grade	Free at Last!: Stories and Songs of Emancipation	Doreen Rappaport
6th-12th grade	Great Speeches by African Americans	ed. James Daley
4th-7th grade	Heroes and She-roes: Poems of Amazing and Everyday Heroes	J. Patrick Lewis
6th-9th grade	His Name was Raoul Wallenberg	Louise Borden
5th-7th grade	I Am a Star: Child of the Holocaust	Inge Auerbacher
5th-9th grade	Navajo Code Talkers	Nathan Aaseng
4th-7th grade	Powerful Stories of Perseverance in Sports	Brad Herzog
4th-9th grade	Rosa Parks: My Story	Rosa Parks
5th-7th grade	The Underground Railroad	Raymond Bial

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7th-12th grade	With Their Eyes: September 11th--The View from a High School at Ground Zero	Annie Thoms
5th-8th grade	Yes She Can!: Women's Sports Pioneers	Glenn Stout

Seventh Grade <i>Topic: Space Exploration Non-Fiction</i>		
<i>Essential Question: Why is it important to explore beyond Earth?</i>		
<i>Text Complexity</i>	<i>Book Title</i>	<i>Author</i>
5th-8th grade	Cars on Mars: Roving the Red Planet	Alexandra Siy
5th-8th grade	How Do Scientists Explore Space?	Robert Snedden
5th-8th grade	Mapping Earth from Space	Robert Snedden
7th-12th grade	Mars Up Close: Inside the Curiosity Mission	Marc Kaufman
4th-8th grade	Mission to Mars	Eve Hartman
3rd-7th grade	Space Exploration	Carole Stott
6th-12th grade	Nature Guide: Stars and Planets	Robert Dinwiddie
4th-7th grade	The Man Who Went to the Far Side of the Moon: Apollo 11 Astronaut Michael Collins	Bea Uusma Schyffert
3rd-7th grade	The First Moon Landing	Gordon Purcell
3rd-7th grade	Who Was Neil Armstrong?	Roberta Edwards
4th-7th grade	Who Traveled to the Moon?	Neil Morris

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Seventh Grade		
<i>Topic: Modern Technology Non-Fiction</i>		
<i>Essential Question: What are the pros and cons of how fast technology is advancing?</i>		
<i>Text Complexity</i>	<i>Book Title</i>	<i>Author</i>
3rd-7th grade	Can You Survive Storm Chasing?	Elizabeth Raum
5th-10th grade	National Geographic Investigates: Future Tech: From Personal Robots to Motorized Monocycles	Charles Piddock
2nd-7th grade	Google Glass and Robotics Innovator Sebastian Thrun	Marne Ventura
4th-7th grade	Everything Robotics: All the Photos, Facts, and Fun to Make You Race for Robots	Jennifer Swanson
3rd-8th grade	Philo Farnsworth and the Television	Ellen S. Niz
4th-8th grade	What Are the Issues with Genetic Technology?	Eve Hartman
3rd-7th grade	Wired World	Andrew Einspruch

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Seventh Grade		
<i>Topic: Sources of Conflict Fiction</i>		
<i>Essential Question: When is it important to fight back?</i>		
<i>Text Complexity</i>	<i>Book Title</i>	<i>Author</i>
5th-8th grade	Among the Hidden	Margaret Peterson Haddix
5th-8th grade	Becoming Naomi Leon	Pam Munoz Ryan
7th-10th grade	Don't You Dare Read This, Mrs. Dunphrey	Margaret Peterson Haddix
6th-8th grade	Hatchet	Gary Paulsen
7th-9th grade	Homeboyz	Alan Lawrence Sitomer
4th-7th grade	Maniac Magee	Jerry Spinelli
2nd-7th grade	Capital Mysteries #10: The Election Day Disaster	Ron Roy
7th-10th grade	The Face on the Milk Carton	Caroline B. Cooney
6th-12th grade	True Grit	Charles Portis
7th-10th grade	Woods Runner	Gary Paulsen

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Seventh Grade		
<i>Topic: Sources of Conflict Non-Fiction</i>		
<i>Essential Question: How can we work to stop conflict before it turns into violence?</i>		
<i>Text Complexity</i>	<i>Book Title</i>	<i>Author</i>
5th-7th grade	Bad Guys and Gals of the Wild West	Dona Herweck Rice
7th-12th grade	Columbine: A True Crime Story	Jeff Kass
2nd-7th grade	Let It Begin Here!: Lexington & Concord: First Battles of the American Revolution	Dennis Brindell Fradin
3rd-7th grade	Pecos Bill, Colossal Cowboy	Sean Tulien
5th-12th grade	Pioneer Trails: Expanding & Preserving the Union	Christi E. Parker
3rd-7th grade	Ropes of Revolution: The Boston Tea Party	J. Gunderson
4th-8th grade	Which Way to the Wild West?: Everything Your Schoolbooks Didn't Tell You About Westward Expansion	Steve Sheinkin

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Seventh Grade <i>Topic: Earth and Sky Non-Fiction</i>		
Essential Question: What makes our Earth such an ideal place for life?		
<i>Text Complexity</i>	<i>Book Title</i>	<i>Author</i>
6th-8th grade	Biomes and Ecosystems	Barbara J. Davis
4th-7th grade	Earth in the Hot Seat: Bulletins from a Warming World	Marfe Ferguson Delano
3rd-8th grade	Exploring Ecosystems with Max Axiom, Super Scientist	Agnieszka Biskup
3rd-7th grade	Food Webs: Who Eats What?	Claire Llewellyn
3rd-7th grade	Geography: A Visual Encyclopedia	DK
4th-8th grade	Hurricane: Perspectives on Storm Disasters	Andrew Langley
2nd-7th grade	Ocean Food Webs in Action	Paul Fleisher
1st-7th grade	Science Chapters: Violent Weather	Andrew Collins
2nd-7th grade	Volcano: Eruption and Healing of Mt. St. Helen's	Patricia Lauber
4th-7th grade	Weather	Seymour Simon
5th-9th grade	Within Reach: My Everest Story	Mark Pfetzer

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DIFFERENTIATED READING LIST EXAMPLES

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Seventh Grade <i>Topic: Tales of the Past Fiction</i>		
<i>Essential Question: What can we learn from our ancestors?</i>		
<i>Text Complexity</i>	<i>Book Title</i>	<i>Author</i>
7th-10th grade	Black Storm Comin'	Diane Lee Wilson
3rd-7th grade	Caddie Woodlawn	Carol Ryrie Brink
6th-9th grade	Esperanza Rising	Pam Munoz Ryan
3rd-7th grade	Facing West: A Story of the Oregon Trail	Kathleen V. Kudlinski
4th-8th grade	Inside Out and Back Again	Thanhha Lai
5th-9th grade	Letters from Rifka	Karen Hesse
5th-8th grade	Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry	Mildred D. Taylor
6th-10th grade	Shane	Jack Schaefer

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Seventh Grade <i>Topic: Tales of the Past Non-Fiction</i>		
<i>Essential Question: Does history repeat itself?</i>		
<i>Text Complexity</i>	<i>Book Title</i>	<i>Author</i>
6th-10th grade	Beyond Courage: The Untold Story of Jewish Resistance During the Holocaust	Doreen Rappaport
5th-8th grade	Black Frontiers: A History of African American Heroes in the Old West	Lillian Schlissel
5th-8th grade	Children of the Dust Bowl: The True Story of the School at Weedpatch Camp	Jerry Stanley
7th-12th grade	One Thousand Paper Cranes: The Story of Sadako and the Children's Peace Statue	Ishii Takayuki
2nd-7th grade	Thank You Sarah: The Woman Who Saved Thanksgiving	Laurie Halse Anderson
4th-7th grade	The Birchbark House	Louise Erdrich
5th-8th grade	The Endless Steppe: Growing Up in Siberia	Esther Hautzig
5th-7th grade	The Golden Spike: How a Photograph Celebrated the Transcontinental Railroad	Don Nardo
4th-7th grade	The Oregon Trail	Mel Friedman

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Seventh Grade <i>Topic: World Transformations</i>		
<i>Essential Question: How do great leaders make sure their accomplishments endure?</i>		
<i>Text Complexity</i>	<i>Book Title</i>	<i>Author</i>
5th-7th grade	Breaker Boys: How a Photograph Helped End Child Labor	Michael Burgan
5th-7th grade	Daring Play: How a Courageous Jackie Robinson Transformed Baseball	Michael Burgan
7th-12th grade	Eyes Wide Open: Going Behind the Environmental Headlines	Paul Fleischman
5th-8th grade	Girls Think of Everything: Stories of Ingenious Inventions by Women	Catherine Thimmesh
6th-12th grade	Headstrong: 52 Women Who Changed Science-and the World	Rachel Swaby
6th-12th grade	I Am Malala: How One Girl Stood Up for Education and Changed the World	Malala Yousafzai
4th-8th grade	Impact: The Story of the September 11 Terrorist Attacks	Matt Doeden
3rd-7th grade	Who Was Ronald Reagan?	Joyce Milton
3rd-7th grade	Who Was Theodore Roosevelt?	Michael Burgan