

Understanding Lexiles



Helping students grow while loving to read is the goal.

Check out [Lexile.com](https://www.lexile.com) for more information!

A book's Lexile level measures how difficult the text is to understand. The Lexile Framework measures two factors: **semantic difficulty**, also known as word frequency, or how often the same words appear in a passage of text, and **syntactic complexity**, or the average sentence length in a passage of text.

Books with long sentences and few repeated words are more difficult to comprehend and receive a higher Lexile measurement.

Books with short sentences and many repeated words are easier to comprehend and receive a lower Lexile measurement.

Lexile however, does not measure the age appropriateness of a text, so reading a variety of Lexile Levels is common based on student interests.

Matching the reader's Lexile level to a book of approximately the same level means the reader should be able to comprehend about 70 percent of the book's text within 50L above of his measurement. Chose books that are up to 100L below and 50L above the student's Lexile level for instruction. Readers usually can read a higher Lexile fiction text than a non-fiction text.

If a book is above the Lexile range, the student may try to read it, especially if it's a topic of interest. Support reading by helping the student look up the meaning of tougher words and connecting the student with other resources on the topic.

Choosing books below the student's Lexile range is fine for any type of reader, but can be especially helpful for struggling and reluctant readers, who can build confidence while learning about new topics and interests.

Teachers may evaluate a student's Lexile level through various activities with the understanding that student will grow throughout the year.

Grade Level	Beginning Lexile Level	Mid Year Lexile Level	Ending Lexile Level	Milestones Expectation
2	450L	500L	550L	
3	550L	600L	650L	650L
4	650L	700L	750L	
5	750L	800L	850L	850L

ITBS and Milestones measure student Lexile levels through Reading and Writing questions specifically designed to evaluate Lexiles.