

English I: Summer Reading List 2017

The Old Man and the Sea Hemingway, Ernest

Story of an old fisherman's struggle against natural obstacles that hinder the catch of a huge marlin. 140 Pages C. Scribner's Sons, 1952. Lexile 940

The Pearl Steinbeck, John

A Mexican folk tale about a man who finds a great pearl and its traumatic effect on him and his family. 122 Pages Viking, 1947. Lexile 1010

Choose one of the following works in addition to the two novels above:

The Bean Trees Kingsolver, Barbara

Taylor Greer hits the road wanting only to get as far away from Kentucky as possible, ending up in Arizona with a 3-year-old Cherokee girl she has inherited from a woman in a bar. 232 Pages New York, Harper and Row, 1988. Lexile 900

Bless Me, Ultima Anaya, Rudolfo A.

A young New Mexico boy comes of age. 277 Pages New York, Warner Books, 1994. Lexile 840

Cold Sassy Tree Burns, Olive Ann

Modern times come to a conservative Southern town in 1906 when the proprietor of the general store elopes with a woman half his age, and worse yet, a Yankee. 391 Pages Ticknor and Fields, 1984. Lexile 930

Ender's Game Card, Orson Scott

An expert at simulated war games, Andrew "Ender" Wiggin believes that he is engaged in one more computer war game when, in truth, he is commanding the last Earth fleet against an alien race seeking Earth's complete destruction. 357 Pages T. Doherty Associates, 1985. Lexile 780

The Hobbit Tolkien, J. R. R.

Bilbo Baggins, a respectable, well-to-do hobbit, lives comfortably in his hobbit-hole until the day the wandering wizard Gandalf chooses him to take part in an adventure from which he may never return. 304 Pages New York, Ballantine, 1996. Lexile 1000

The House on Mango Street Cisneros, Sandra

For Esperanza, a young girl growing up in the Hispanic quarter of Chicago, life is an endless landscape of concrete and run-down tenements, and she tries to rise above the hopelessness. 134 Pages New York, Alfred A. Knopf, 1991. Lexile 870

Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry Taylor, Mildred D.

A Black family living in the South during the 1930s is faced with prejudice and discrimination which their children don't understand. 276 Pages Dial Press, 1976. Lexile 920

Slam! Myers, Walter Dean

Seventeen-year-old "Slam" Harris is counting on his basketball talents to get him out of the inner city and give him a chance to succeed in life, but his coach sees things differently. 266 Pages New York, Scholastic Press, 1996. Lexile 750

The following information about Lexile scores is taken from the NoveList database (<http://novelst3.epnet.com/novel/default.asp>):

NoveList's reading levels are determined by age, but we all know that reading abilities and interests vary widely in a specific age group. All third graders do not read at the same level.

MetaMetrics is a company based in North Carolina that developed a scientifically based measure of how hard a book is to read. This score is expressed as a number between 0 and 2000. Parents, teachers, librarians can use lexiles to find books that are reading level appropriate (see equivalency chart below).

For example, a father whose twelve-year-old son is a reluctant reader but has read Louis Sachar's book *Holes* and really enjoyed it could use NoveList to discover that *Holes* has a lexile score of 660. This father could then use the lexile limiter to only retrieve titles that are within his son's reading ability. One hundred points below and fifty points above the score of 660 would be what Lexile's creators recommend. A search on a lexile range of 560 - 710 on the topic of books with twelve-year-old boys as characters would retrieve over several potential titles for this father's son.

Grade Level	Reader Measures	Text Measures (Lexile Range)
1	up to 300L	200L to 400L
2	140L to 500L	300L to 500L
3	330L to 700L	500L to 700L
4	445L to 810L	650L to 850L
5	565L to 910L	750L to 950L
6	665L to 1000L	850L to 1050L
7	735L to 1065L	950L to 1075L
8	805L to 1100L	1000L to 1100L
9	855L to 1165L	1050L to 1150L
10	905L to 1195L	1100L to 1200L
11-12	940L to 1210L	1100L to 1300L

The Educational Levels displayed on the Lexile Map indicate approximately the middle 50% of materials found in a typical grade-level classroom (see chart to the right). For example, the instructional materials typically found in a third-grade classroom range from about 500L to 700L. You can go in many third-grade classrooms and find materials that would have measures below 500L or above 700L. We have also conducted numerous studies with large samples of students and have observed approximate reading levels (about the middle 50% of the students-the interquartile range) for each grade level (see chart below). Remember that there are still about 50% of the students that are reading higher or lower than these ranges.

You can learn more about how to equate Lexile scores to reading levels by reading MetaMetric's FAQ on the subject at their website at <http://www.lexile.com>.

For a frame of reference, Dr. Seuss's *The Cat in the Hat* has a Lexile score of 260 and Renae Descartes' *Discourse on Method* has a score of 1840.

I have included Lexile scores in the information about each book (all taken from the NoveList database) to assist students in picking their third book; some students may wish to choose a more challenging books while others may wish to choose a book more in their comfort range.