

LEXILE SCORES: WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

What's this section of our website for? Recently many parents have come into the Library asking about Lexile scores. You can use this section of our site as a guide to basic info on Lexiles, school and library usage, plus their pros and cons, and a sample booklist.

WHAT is a Lexile?

A number indicating reading level. A Lexile is a score on many standardized tests that rates your child's reading ability. Lexiles can range from below 200L for beginning readers to over 1700L for advanced readers.

WHO comes up with Lexiles?

A privately owned *company* named MetaMetrics. You can visit www.lexile.com for more info about their company and a detailed explanation of their process for developing Lexiles.

WHEN were Lexile scores designed?

Lexiles were developed after 20 years of research and were first used in 1998 by Florida's Department of Education in classrooms and on standardized tests. In 2006, Illinois tests like the ISAT began using Lexiles to report reading scores.

WHY did they come up with Lexiles?

MetaMetrics aims to quantify a student's reading ability. Metametrics points out that some students in, for example, second grade can read at a fifth grade level. Lexile scores are intended as a "thermometer" of reading ability and are meant to match kids by their true reading level and not just by grade level.

WHERE CAN I FIND BOOKS WITH MY KID'S LEXILE RANGE?

WHERE will you see Lexile scores?

Standardized tests results (like the ISAT)

MetaMetrics would like Lexiles to be a standard measure across tests and to provide continuity over the years. That is, if your child scores a 400L on one test one year and the next year scores a 500L, then, in theory, you can track her progress by Lexile scores from year to year.

www.lexile.com (book search)

From www.lexile.com/findabook, you can search by title, category (e.g. mystery), or Lexile number. Note: Results are limited. MetaMetrics has not given all the books in the world a Lexile number. In fact, the Lexile site states they have measured 100,000 titles to date and are adding more titles to their list every day.

NoveList K-8 (database)

If you have a Hinsdale Public Library card, you can log into **NoveList K-8** at www.hinsdalelibrary.info. To get to NoveList from this page, first select the **Databases** tab, then scroll down to **Books and Literature** and select NoveList; then K-8. Next select the **Search Our Databases** tab; any type of search (e.g. **Find a Favorite Author**) will let you limit your search by Lexile number. For example, you can search for **author (Avi)** and limit to **Lexile range (500-600)**. Note: not all books in NoveList have been given a Lexile number yet, so if you limit by Lexile number, your results will only include the titles that have been given a Lexile score so far.

SIRS Discoverer (magazine database)

Also from www.hinsdalelibrary.info. Under the **Databases** tab, select **SIRS Discoverer** from the **Epecially for Kids and Students** section. SIRS Discoverer provides Lexile scores for the magazine articles and the short fiction in their database. In the basic search, search for any topic and then sort results by Lexiles. In an advanced search, you can limit results to a certain Lexile range. For example, search for **frogs** in the advanced search and limit the Lexile range to 500-600, then the article "Don't Eat Me!" in *Highlights for Children* comes up with a Lexile of 580.

Scholastic's Teacher Store

Go to www.scholastic.com then select **Teacher Store**. Search for **Lexile** in the Teacher Store to pull up their leveled Lexile libraries. For example, you can search for **Lexile 500**, and Teacher Store will give you a list of books ranging from 500L-599L.

LEXILES IN THE LIBRARY

HOW can the Library help me find Lexile-rated books?

- Books in the Library are not organized by Lexiles, but the Library does have a broad range of reading materials available: picture books (JE), readers (JR), juvenile fiction (J), and young adult fiction (YA). Ask the Library staff where each collection is located, and we'll be happy to show you.
- Book publishers do not provide Lexiles in their publisher information. However, Library staff are happy to assist you with Lexile scores and look up a book to see if it has been given a Lexile score yet.

Library staff can help you ...

- Search for books in NoveList and show you how to search www.lexile.com.
- Find articles about Lexiles in the Library databases, including SIRS Discoverer.
- By recommending titles based on your child's interest and reading ability. Please don't hesitate to ask for suggestions.

A LEXILE MAP: A SAMPLE BOOKLIST WITH LEXILE SCORES

1700L	<i>Discourse on the Method and Meditations on First Philosophy</i> by Rene Descartes
1520L	<i>A Modest Proposal</i> by Jonathan Swift
1440L	<i>The Legend of Sleepy Hollow</i> by Washington Irving
1400L	<i>The Scarlet Letter</i> by Nathaniel Hawthorne
1210L	<i>Cold Mountain</i> by Charles Frazier
1200L	<i>War and Peace</i> by Leo Tolstoy
1160L	<i>The Pickwick Papers</i> by Charles Dickens
1100L	<i>Pride and Prejudice</i> by Jane Austen
1000L	<i>Black Beauty</i> by Anna Sewell
930L	<i>The Golden Compass</i> by Philip Pullman
860L	<i>Julie of the Wolves</i> by Jean Craighead George
770L	<i>The Giver</i> by Lois Lowry
660L	<i>Holes</i> by Louis Sachar
560L	<i>Sarah, Plain and Tall</i> by Patricia MacLachlan
490L	<i>Harold and the Purple Crayon</i> by Crockett Johnson

- 400L *Frog and Toad Are Friends* by Arnold Lobel
- 300L *Clifford's Manners* by Norman Bridwell
- 220L *Play Ball, Amelia Bedelia* by Peggy Parish

LEXILE GRADE CHART

Although Lexile ranges do not directly match certain grade levels, you can use the grade chart on the left as a rough comparison of Lexile ranges to grade levels.

Grade	Lexile Range
1	Up to 400L
2	140L to 500L
3	330L to 700L
4	445L to 850L
5	565L to 950L
6	665L to 1050L
7	735L to 1075L
8	805L to 1100L
9	855L to 1165L
10	905L to 1200L
11 & 12	940L to 1300L

WEIGHING LEXILES: PROS AND CONS

Lexile scores are just one of the many tools available to measure reading ability. (Some schools use other tools like Accelerated Reader levels). Some in the education world endorse Lexiles as a good tool to match kids with books, but others do not think Lexiles are a helpful tool for kids. Here are some PROs and CONs about using Lexiles.

PROS: BENEFITS OF USING LEXILES

- Continuity of measure across a child's entire education. Test scores will show a kid's progress over the years and connect from elementary to secondary level so that the testing measure stays the same from year to year.
- Attempts to measure reader's true ability by word frequency and sentence length and give a more accurate picture of reading ability than grade level does. Lexile scores do not pigeonhole a kid into reading at grade level.
- May provide another way of finding books appropriate for your child's reading level.

CONS: DIFFICULTIES WITH USING LEXILES

- Not universal. Many schools, libraries, and book publishers do **not** use these measures at all (because MetaMetrics requests a fee to have books assessed a Lexile level).
- Limited and limiting. Many books have not been assigned a Lexile yet, and kids may feel that they cannot read outside their Lexile range; a 400L may feel restricted to the 12 books that are 400L on the Lexile site whereas at the Library he could choose from hundreds of books right for his reading skill.
- Does not judge content or conceptual complexity. Parents should review the books for their child's Lexile score for content.