

# Using Lexile® measures to help students “Find a Book”

Students may ask for your help finding books in a Lexile range that match their interests. The following information will help you with these requests.

## What is a Lexile measure?

A Lexile measure indicates the reading level of an individual or a book, and is represented as a number followed by an “L” (for example, 700L). By comparing a student’s Lexile measure with the Lexile measure of a book, you can decide whether its text demand will be too difficult, too easy or just right for the student’s reading ability. To best strengthen his or her reading skills, a student should read books within his or her Lexile range.

## What is a student’s recommended Lexile range?

A student’s Lexile range spans from 100L below to 50L above his or her Lexile measure. When the student reads within his or her Lexile range, he or she should be able to comprehend enough of the book to make sense of it, while still being sufficiently challenged to maintain interest and learning.

## How does a student get a Lexile measure in Kentucky?

Students receive a Lexile measure from the Kentucky Performance Rating for Educational Progress. Lexile measures will be included on the K-PREP score reports that parents receive in the 2012-13 school year.

## How can you use Lexile measures to help a student find books?

With the free “Find a Book, Kentucky” search tool, you can help a student select books that best match his or her reading ability (Lexile measure), interests and goals. It’s easy and fun to use!

- ① Go to **<http://www.lexile.com/fab/ky>**
- ② Enter the student’s Lexile measure
- ③ Have the student select interest categories

- ④ View and refine the search results  
If you don’t have a book in your collection, click the “Find in a Library” button next to its title to use WorldCat to check the book’s availability at the local public library.

- ⑤ Print the student’s custom reading list



*“Find a Book, Kentucky” is offered in partnership with the Kentucky Department of Education and Lexile-developer MetaMetrics®.*



For more information on Lexile measures, visit **[www.Lexile.com](http://www.Lexile.com)**.



### Should a student try to read books outside of his or her Lexile range?

A student can read books that are above or below his or her Lexile range. However, books that are below the student's Lexile range may offer little challenge in terms of new vocabulary and complex grammatical structures. Similarly, books that are above a student's Lexile range may be too challenging and discourage the reader.

#### *Higher Lexile measures allow an advanced and enthusiastic reader to:*

- be challenged with high-interest books above his or her Lexile level
- seek help with a hard but interesting book
- find other books on the same subject but at a higher Lexile level

#### *Lower Lexile measures allow a struggling and reluctant reader to:*

- build skills with less challenging books on topics of choice
- select high-low books based on Lexile and developmental levels
- find other books on the same subject but at a lower Lexile level

### Does a student need a Lexile measure to use "Find a Book, Kentucky?"

No. "Find a Book, Kentucky" can estimate a student's starting Lexile range based on his or her grade and comfort with the reading materials at that grade level. Then, based on the book search results, the student can further refine his or her Lexile range to select books that best support successful reading.

### How is the Lexile measure of a book determined?

A book's Lexile measure is based on two characteristics: word frequency and sentence length. Once these factors are determined, MetaMetrics uses a proprietary scientific equation to assign a Lexile measure to the text, ranging from below 200L for beginning-reader text to above 1700L for more advanced text. More than 130,000 books have Lexile measures, and this number continues to grow.

### Is a Lexile measure the only criteria to consider when picking a book?

A Lexile measure is a measure of text complexity only. It does not address the subject matter or text quality, age-appropriateness of the content or a reader's interests. The Lexile measure is one piece of information that you can use when selecting books.

Some books also have a Lexile code—a two-letter designation that appears before the Lexile measure (for example, AD580L)—to provide more information about the book's developmental appropriateness, reading difficulty, and common or intended usage. Visit [www.Lexile.com](http://www.Lexile.com) for more information on Lexile codes.

### Where can I find more information on Lexile measures?

For more information and to watch a six-minute video on Lexile measures, visit [www.Lexile.com](http://www.Lexile.com). The "News & Events" page also offers access to AASL's members-only *Knowledge Quest* newsletter, which includes an interview with MetaMetrics President Malbert Smith on using Lexile measures in the library.

**The Lexile Framework for Reading** evaluates reading ability and text complexity on the same developmental scale. Unlike other measurement systems, the Lexile Framework determines reading ability based on actual assessments, rather than generalized age or grade levels. Recognized as the standard for matching readers with texts, tens of millions of students worldwide receive a Lexile measure that helps them find targeted readings from the more than 400 million articles, books and websites that have been measured. Lexile measures connect learners of all ages with resources at the right level of challenge and monitor their progress toward state and national proficiency standards.



Kentucky Department of Education  
500 Mero Street  
Frankfort, KY 40601  
[www.education.ky.gov](http://www.education.ky.gov)



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