



Help your customers choose the right books!

Suppose a parent or child enters your store and asks for your help in selecting books that best match the child's Lexile® measure. This informational sheet will provide you with the basics on Lexile measures so that you can help your customers use these widely adopted reading measures to choose the "right" books for successful reading.

What is a Lexile measure?

A Lexile measure indicates the reading level of an individual or a book. Lexile measures are expressed as a number followed by an "L" (for example, 700L), and range from below 200L for beginning readers and beginning-reader books to above 1700L for advanced readers and books. By comparing their Lexile measure with the Lexile measure of a book, children can determine whether the book's text demand may be too difficult, too easy or just right for their reading ability. To best strengthen their reading skills, children should read books within their own Lexile range.

What is a child's recommended Lexile range?

A child's Lexile range spans 100L below to 50L above his or her Lexile measure. For example, if the child's Lexile measure is 700L, the child should be able to comprehend books between 600L and 750L. When a child reads a book within his or her Lexile range, the child is likely to comprehend enough of the book to make sense of it, while still being sufficiently challenged to maintain interest and learning. For successful reading practice, children should choose books that are within their recommended Lexile range.

Should children try to read books outside of their Lexile range?

Children can read books that are above or below their Lexile range. However, books that are below a child's Lexile range may offer little challenge in terms of new vocabulary and complex grammatical structures. Likewise, books that are above the child's Lexile range may be too challenging and discourage the reader.

Higher Lexile measures allow advanced and enthusiastic readers to: be challenged with high-interest books above their Lexile level; seek parental help with a hard but interesting book; and find other books on the same subject but at a lower Lexile level.

Lower Lexile measures allow struggling and reluctant readers to: build skills with less challenging books on their topics of interest; select age-appropriate, high-low books based on their Lexile and developmental levels; and find other books on the same subject but at a lower Lexile level.



For more information on Lexile measures,
visit www.Lexile.com.

BARNES & NOBLE
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How do children get a Lexile measure?

Lexile measures are reported state-wide on year-end tests in nearly half of the states, including California, Georgia, North Carolina, Texas and Virginia, and are used at the school level in various capacities in all 50 states. Each year, more than 28 million Lexile measures are reported from reading assessments and programs, representing about half of U.S. students, particularly in grades 3–8. Lexile measures typically are included on a child's end-of-grade score report which is sent home to parents. For a complete list of assessments that report Lexile measures, visit www.Lexile.com.

How do I use Lexile measures to help my customers find books?

You can use Lexile measures to match your customers with books at an appropriate level of challenge for their reading goals. Barnes & Noble.com now includes Lexile measures on its product pages, by clicking on "Full Product Details." So, if you search for one of the titles in the "Harry Potter" series, the Lexile measure of the book will appear with the publisher, publication date, age range and other data. You can use the Lexile measure to determine how well the book matches the reader's ability.

This fall, you can help customers search for books by Lexile measure in stores by using Book Master and online using a "Lexile wizard," which will be added to the "Advanced Search" and "Kids" sections. The new online book search will allow customers to either enter their Lexile measure or estimate their Lexile range and generate a list of high-interest books that can help them grow as readers. Barnes & Noble customers also can use MetaMetrics' "Find a Book" (www.lexile.com/findabook) to search the Lexile Book Database and build a customized list of books that can be purchased directly at Barnes & Noble.com.

Do children need a Lexile measure to find books?

No. Children who do not have a Lexile measure can use the "Lexile wizard" or "Find a Book" to estimate their Lexile range. Both utilities use a child's grade level and overall comfort with the reading materials at that grade level to determine the child's starting Lexile range. Then, based on the book search results, the child can further refine his or her Lexile range to select books that will support the most successful reading experiences.

How is the Lexile measure of a book determined?

The Lexile measure of a book is based on two characteristics: word frequency and sentence length. A specialized software program determines the word frequencies for each word in the book, and examines the number of words in each sentence. The result of these calculations is a Lexile measure, and it describes the difficulty level of the entire book. More than 115,000 fiction and nonfiction 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 measures text difficulty only. It does not address the subject matter or text quality, age-appropriateness of the content or the reader's interests. The Lexile measure is one piece of information that parents and children can use when selecting books.

Where can I find out more about Lexile measures?

For more information on Lexile measures, and to watch a quick, six-minute video on using Lexile measures to promote reading growth, visit www.Lexile.com. Additional Lexile information also is available on Barnes & Noble.com.

The Lexile Framework® for Reading

Recognized as the most widely adopted reading measure, Lexile measures are used at the school level in various capacities in all 50 states. Each year, more than 28 million Lexile measures are reported from reading assessments and programs, representing about half of U.S. students.

The Lexile Framework is an educational tool that connects readers with reading materials using a common measure called a Lexile. What makes the Lexile Framework unique, and what has led to its widespread adoption, is that it measures both reading ability and text difficulty on the same developmental scale. When used together, Lexile reader measures and Lexile text measures allow educators, parents and children to find books and other materials that meet and challenge a reader's unique ability and interests. More than 115,000 books, 80 million articles and 60,000 Web sites have Lexile measures, and the number of resources with Lexile measures continues to grow. For more information on the Lexile Framework, visit www.Lexile.com.



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