

Meaning of Lexile® Measures: Some Important Facts

A Lexile text measure is a piece of information about the difficulty level of a text, book, or magazine article. The measure is represented by a number with the letter L after it.

A book, article or text gets a Lexile text measure when it's analyzed by MetaMetrics. A Lexile text measure is based on two predictors of how difficult a text is to comprehend: **word frequency** and **sentence length**. The Lexile text measure is a good starting point in the book or text selection process. Lexile measures help a reader find books and articles at an appropriate level of difficulty and they determine how well that reader will likely comprehend a text.

A Lexile text measure is reported on the Lexile scale, from a low of BR to a high of 2000L. The lower a book's Lexile measure, the easier it will be to comprehend. For example, a text with a Lexile measure of 850L will most likely be easier for a reader to comprehend than a text at 950L. Lexile text measures are rounded to the nearest 10L. Text measures at or below 0L are reported as BR for Beginning Reader.

There is no direct correspondence between a specific Lexile measure and a specific grade level. The Lexile Framework for Reading is intended to match readers with texts at whatever level the reader is reading. **Although Lexile measures should not be linked directly to grade levels, information is provided to describe the Lexile measures of textbooks at various grade levels.**

The Typical Text Measures chart below shows the middle 50% of text measures for each grade. The middle 50% is called the interquartile range (IQR). The lower number in each range marks the 25th percentile of texts and the higher number in each range marks the 75th percentile of texts. It is important to note that 25% of texts in the studies had measures below the lower number and 25% had measures above the higher number.

Data for the first column of text measures came from a research study designed to examine collections of textbooks designated for specific grades (MetaMetrics, 2009).

The “stretch” text measures (defined in 2012 through studies related to the development of the Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts) in the second column represent the demand of text that students should be reading to be college and career ready by the end of Grade 12.

Typical Text Measures, by Grade		
Grade	Text Demand Study 2009	2012 CCSS Text Measures*
25th percentile to 75th percentile (IQR)		
1	230L to 420L	190L to 530L
2	450L to 570L	420L to 650L
3	600L to 730L	520L to 820L
4	640L to 780L	740L to 940L
5	730L to 850L	830L to 1010L
6	860L to 920L	925L to 1070L
7	880L to 960L	970L to 1120L
8	900L to 1010L	1010L to 1185L
9	960L to 1110L	1050L to 1260L
10	920L to 1120L	1080L to 1335L
11 and 12	1070L to 1220L	1185L to 1385L

Source: MetaMetrics. (2013). *The Lexile Framework for Reading*. Retrieved from <http://www.lexile.com/>

Lexile Measures of Foundations® Materials

Based on the Typical Text Measures chart, almost all Foundations materials meet or exceed the middle 50% of text measures for each grade. The following is a breakdown of the materials and their scores.

Foundations Level 1 Storytime Stories:

The majority of Level 1 Storytime stories have a Lexile measure that falls within the middle 50% of text measures for first grade (see first column of the Typical Text Measures chart). Exceptions are *King Sam* and *Fred the Frog* which fall short of it and *Jake the Whale*, *Brad's Lost Glasses*, and *Mack and Bugs* which exceed it.

1. *King Sam* (Unit 7) has a Lexile measure of 190L. This falls below the middle 50% of text measures for first grade. However, it does meet the demand of text that students should be reading to be college and career ready by the end of Grade 12 (as shown in column 2 of the Typical Text Measures chart).
2. *Fred the Frog* (Unit 9) has a Lexile measure of 210L. This falls below the middle 50% of text measures for first grade. However, it does meet the demand of text that students should be reading to be college and career ready by the end of Grade 12 (as shown in column 2 of the Typical Text Measures chart).
3. *Jake the Whale* (Unit 11) has a Lexile measure of 460L. This measure is above the middle 50% of text measures for first grade. According to the Typical Text Measures chart, it is a second grade level text.
4. *Brad's Lost Glasses* (Unit 13) has a measure of 520L. This measure is above the middle 50% of text measures for first grade. According to the Typical Text Measures chart, it is a second grade level text.
5. *Mack and Bugs* (Unit 6) has a Lexile measure of 690L. This measure is well above the middle 50% of text measures for first grade. According to the Typical Text Measures chart, it is a third/fourth grade level text.

Foundations Level 2 Storytime Stories:

The majority of Level 2 Storytime stories have a Lexile measure that falls within or is greater than the middle 50% of text measures for second grade. The only exception is *Skip is Sick*. This text, with a Lexile measure of 360L, has a first grade level score, according to the Typical Text Measures chart.

- Unit 2: *Skip is Sick* (360L): Grade 1
- Unit 3: *The Lost Colt* (680L): Grades 3, 4
- Unit 4: *Wish Come True* (550L): Grade 2
- Unit 5: *Hopscotch* (490L): Grade 2
- Unit 6: *Babe Ruth* (680L): Grades 3, 4
- Unit 7: *Adjectives are Handy* (780L): Grades 4, 5
- Unit 8: *Changing Places* (850L): Grade 5
- Unit 9: *The Red Planet* (630L): Grade 3
- Unit 10: *Cursive Letters* (680L): Grades 3, 4
- Unit 11: *Winter Daydream* (580L): Between grades 2 & 3
- Unit 12: *Surprise* (790L): Grade 5
- Unit 13: *Kelly's Speed Quiz* (750L): Grades 4, 5

Unit 14: *Ross Gets Help* (720L): Grades 3, 4

Unit 15: *The Rescue Team* (760L): Grades 4, 5

Unit 16: *The Sock Mystery* (820L): Grade 5

Unit 17: *Aunts and Uncles* (950L): Grades 7, 8

Fundations Level 1 Story Set:

All but one of the Fundations Readers by Barbara Wilson have a Lexile measure that falls within the middle 50% of text measures for first grade. The exception is *Milly and Her Kittens* which has a Lexile measure of 130L. Although the Typical Text Measures chart does not express this, it's likely that 130L is a kindergarten-level measure. The breakdown is as follows:

1. *Bud the Pup* (390L): Grade 1
2. *Mrs. Hen and Her Six Chicks* (530L): Grade 2
3. *Jack and His Pal Max* (370L): Grade 1
4. *Milly and Her Kittens* (130L): Likely kindergarten level
5. *Mrs. Piglin Visits Sick Mr. Fox* (400L): Grade 1
6. *Ted and Matt* (330L): Grade 1

Fundations Fluency Kits:

The stories in the Fluency Kits for Levels 1 & 2 are the same stories that occur in the Fundations Teacher's Manuals 1 & 2. The only exception is a story called *Peg and the Pup* in the Level 1 Fluency Kit. It has a Lexile Measure of 530L. This measure falls in the grade 2 Lexile Framework.

Lexile Measures of Wilson Fluency® Basic Materials

Reader 1:

According to the Typical Text Measures chart, the Level 1 Readers fall within the Lexile Frameworks for grades 2, 3, and 4. The breakdown is as follows:

1. *Dogs are Fun (620L)*: Grade 3
2. *Hall Mess (460L)*: Grade 2
3. *The Pan for Eggs and Ham (720L)*: Grades 3, 4
4. *Dad Shops for Food (560L)*: Grade 2
5. *Do You Like Bugs? (450L)*: Grade 2

Reader 2:

According to the Typical Text Measures chart, the Level 2 Readers fall within the Lexile Frameworks for grades 2, 3, 4, and 5. The breakdown is as follows:

1. *Hank (660L)*: Grades 3, 4
2. *Fish in Small Pond (490L)*: Grade 2
3. *Gold at Cold Creek (730L)*: Grades 3, 4, 5
4. *Grump (550L)*: Grade 2
5. *Split Cliffs Hike (660L)*: Grades 3, 4

Reader 3:

According to the Typical Text Measures chart, the Level 3 Readers fall within the Lexile Frameworks for grades 3, 4, and 5. The breakdown is as follows:

1. *Cotton (790L)*: Grade 5
2. *The Chicago Fire of 1871 (650L)*: Grades 3, 4
3. *Elizabeth Blackwell (700L)*: Grades 3, 4
4. *Basketball Champs (650L)*: Grades 3, 4
5. *Holiday of Thanks (730L)*: Grades 3, 4, 5

Basic Reader:

According to the Typical Text Measures chart, the Basic Readers fall within the Lexile Frameworks for grades 3, 4, and 5. The breakdown is as follows:

1. *Snapshots of a Giant Squid (750L)*: Grades 4, 5
2. *Bomb Sniffing Rats (780L)*: Grades 4, 5
3. *Pluto-No Longer a Planet (670L)*: Grades 3, 4
4. *A Hidden World in New Guinea (800L)*: Grade 5
5. *Save the Rainforests (790L)*: Grade 5