



EXPEDITIONARY
LEARNING

Grade 7: Module 3A: Recommended Texts



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The list below includes texts with a range of Lexile® text measures about Frederick Douglass and slavery. It is imperative that students read a high volume of texts at their reading level in order to continue to build the academic vocabulary and fluency demanded by the CCLS. Note that districts and schools should consider their own community standards when reviewing this list. Some texts in particular units or modules address emotionally difficult content.

Where possible, texts in languages other than English are also provided. Texts are categorized into three Lexile levels that correspond to Common Core Bands: below grade band, within band, and above band. Note, however, that Lexile® measures are just one indicator of text complexity, and teachers must use their professional judgment and consider qualitative factors as well. For more information, see Appendix 1 of the Common Core State Standards.

Common Core Band Level Text Difficulty Ranges:

(As provided in the NYSED Passage Selection Guidelines for Assessing CCSS ELA)

- Grade 2–3: 420–820L
- Grade 4–5: 740–1010L
- Grade 6–8: 925–1185L

| Title | Author And Illustrator | Text Type | Lexile Measure |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|----------------|
| Lexile text measures in Grade 2–3 band level (below 740L) | | | |
| <i>My America: Freedom’s Wings</i> | Sharon Wyeth (author) | Literature | 350 |
| <i>Never Forgotten</i> | Pat McKissack (author) | Literature | 630* |
| <i>The People Could Fly</i> | Virginia Hamilton (author) | Literature/Folklore | 660 |
| <i>Chasing the Nightbird</i> | Krista Russell (author) | Literature | 680 |

*Lexile based on a conversion from Accelerated Reading level.



| Title | Author And Illustrator | Text Type | Lexile Measure |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| Lexile text measures in Grade 4–5 band level (740–925L) | | | |
| <i>Nightjohn</i> | Gary Paulsen (author) | Literature | 770 |
| <i>My Name Is Henry Bibb: A Story of Slavery and Freedom</i> | Afua Cooper (author) | Literature | 800 |
| <i>Sarny: A Life Remembered</i> | Gary Paulsen (author) | Literature | 840 |
| <i>Jump Ship to Freedom</i> | James Collier (author) | Literature | 850 |
| Lexile text measures within Grade 6–8 band level (925–1185L) | | | |
| <i>Let It Shine: Stories of Black Women Freedom Fighters</i> | Andrea Davis Pinkney (author) | Biography | 940 |
| <i>The Slave Dancer</i> | Paula Fox (author) | Literature | 970 |
| <i>I Lay My Stitches Down: Poems of American Slavery</i> | Cynthia Grady (author) | Poetry | 990 |
| <i>Many Thousand Gone: African Americans from Slavery to Freedom</i> | Virginia Hamilton (author) | Informational | 990 |
| <i>Stolen into Slavery: The True Story of Solomon Northup, Free Black Man</i> | Judith Fradin (author) | Informational | 1060 |
| <i>Hand in Hand: Ten Black Men Who Changed America</i> | Andrea Davis Pinkney (author) | Informational | 1080* |
| <i>To Be a Slave</i> | Julius Lester (author) | Informational | 1080 |

*Lexile based on a conversion from Accelerated Reading level.



| Title | Author And Illustrator | Text Type | Lexile Measure |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| Lexile text measures within Grade 6–8 band level (925–1185L) | | | |
| <i>Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass: The Story Behind an American Friendship</i> | Russell Freedman (author) | Informational | 1110 |
| <i>Traveling the Freedom Road</i> | Linda Osborne (author) | Informational | 1120 |
| <i>Harriet Tubman, Secret Agent: How Daring Slaves and Free Blacks Spied for the Union During the Civil War</i> | Thomas Allen (author) | Informational | 1120 |
| Lexile text measures above band level (over 1185L) | | | |
| <i>Freedom Roads: Searching for the Underground Railroads</i> | Joyce Hansen (author) | Informational | 1190* |
| <i>Dred Scott v. Sanford: Slavery and Freedom Before the American Civil War</i> | Amy Van Zee (author) | Informational | 1190‡ |

*Lexile based on a conversion from Accelerated Reading level;

‡Book content may have higher-maturity-level text

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