



EXPEDITIONARY
LEARNING

Grade 3: Module 2B: Unit 1:

Recommended Texts



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The list below includes texts with a range of Lexile® text measures about the people and culture of Japan. This provides appropriate independent reading for each student to help build content knowledge about the topic.

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.

Common Core Band Level Text Difficulty Ranges:

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

- Grades 2–3: 420–820L
- Grades 4–5: 740–1010L

Where possible, texts in languages other than English are also provided. Texts are categorized into three Lexile measures 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.

Title	Author and Illustrator	Text Type	Lexile Measure
Lexile text measures below band level (under 420L)			
<i>Night of the Ninjas</i>	Mary Pope Osborne (author)	Literature	280
<i>A Look at Japan</i>	Helen Frost (author)	Informational	400*
<i>My Japan</i>	Etsuko Watanabe (author)	Informational	420*
<i>The Boy from the Dragon Palace: A Folktale from Japan</i>	Margaret Read MacDonald (author) Sachiko Yoshikawa (illustrator)	Literature	420*

*Lexile based on a conversion from Accelerated Reading level.



Title	Author and Illustrator	Text Type	Lexile Measure
Lexile text measures within band level (420–820L)			
<i>Erika-San</i>	Allen Say (author)	Literature	540
<i>The Funny Little Woman</i>	Arlene Mosel (author) Blair Lent (illustrator)	Literature	570
<i>Tsunami!</i>	Kimiko Kajikawa (author) Ed Young (illustrator)	Literature	620
<i>Japan in Colors</i>	Sara Louise Kras (author)	Informational	640
<i>Japan</i>	Thomas Streissguth (author)	Informational	640
<i>Himeji Castle: Japan's Samurai Past</i>	Jacqueline A. Ball (author)	Informational	650
<i>Cultural Traditions in Japan</i>	Lynn Peppas (author)	Informational	740*
<i>Thea Stilton and the Cherry Blossom Adventure</i>	Thea Stilton (author)	Literature	760
<i>Crow Boy</i>	Taro Yashima (author)	Literature	760

*Lexile based on a conversion from Accelerated Reading level.



Title	Author and Illustrator	Text Type	Lexile Measure
Lexile text measures above band level (over 820L)			
<i>Japanese Celebrations: Cherry Blossoms, Lanterns and Stars!</i>	Betty Reynolds (Author)	Informational	830*
<i>Hachiko: The True Story of a Loyal Dog</i>	Pamela S. Turner (author) Yan Nascimbene (illustrator)	Informational	830
<i>K Is for Kabuki: A Japan Alphabet</i>	Gloria Whelan and Jenny Nolan (authors) Oki S. Han (illustrator)	Informational	950*
<i>Momotaro and the Island of Ogres: A Japanese Folktale</i>	Stephanie Wada (author)	Literature	970*
<i>Recipe and Craft Guide to Japan</i>	Juliet Mofford (author)	Informational	970*
<i>Colors of Japan</i>	Holly Littlefield (author) Helen Byers (illustrator)	Informational	1010

*Lexile based on a conversion from Accelerated Reading level.

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