

Literature

Readability Scores

Grade 8

Unit 1

“Raymond’s Run” by Toni Cade Bambara

Difficulty Level: Average

Readability: Lexile 1270, Fry 7, Dale-Chall 6.6

“The Ransom of Red Chief” by O. Henry

Difficulty Level: Challenging

Readability: Lexile 980, Fry 9, Dale-Chall 7.9

“Clean Sweep” by Joan Bauer

Difficulty Level: Average

Readability: Lexile 950, Fry 9, Dale-Chall 6.5

“The Tell-Tale Heart” by Edgar Allan Poe

Difficulty Level: Challenging

Readability: Lexile 850, Fry 5, Dale-Chall 6.4

“The Hitchhiker” by Lucille Fletcher

Difficulty Level: Average

“My First Free Summer” by Julia Alvarez

Difficulty Level: Easy

Readability: Lexile 820, Fry 7, Dale-Chall 6.3

“The Great Rat Hunt” by Laurence Yep

Difficulty Level: Easy

Readability: Lexile 650, Fry 4, Dale-Chall 6.0

“The Other Riders”

Difficulty Level: Challenging

Readability: Lexile 1260, Fry 7, Dale-Chall 8.2

Grade 8
Unit 2

“The Treasure of Lemon Brown” by Walter Dean Myers

Difficulty Level: Average

Readability: Lexile 850, Fry 6, Dale-Chall 5.7

“Basic Blues: An American Art Form”

Difficulty Level: Average

“Flowers for Algernon” by Daniel Keyes/ “Charly” by Stirling Silliphant

Difficulty Level: Challenging

“Rules of the Game” by Amy Tan

Difficulty Level: Average

Readability: Lexile 990, Fry 7, Dale-Chall 6.8

“The Medicine Bag” by Virginia Driving Hawk Sneve

Difficulty Level: Easy

Readability: Lexile 910, Fry 7, Dale-Chall 7

“Who Are You Today, Maria?” by Judith Ortiz Cofer

Difficulty Level: Easy

Readability: Lexile 870, Fry 7, Dale-Chall 6.4

from *Harriet Tubman: Conductor on the Underground Railroad* by Ann Petry

Difficulty Level: Average

Readability: Lexile 1010, Fry 5, Dale-Chall 6.7

“The Mysterious Mr. Lincoln” by Russell Freedman

Difficulty Level: Easy

Readability: Lexile 970, Fry 7, Dale-Chall 7.4

“Barbara Frietchie” by John Greenleaf Whittier/ “John Henry” traditional

Difficulty Level: Average

Grade 8
Unit 3

“The Drummer Boy of Shiloh” by Ray Bradbury

Difficulty Level: Challenging

Readability: Lexile 990, Fry 7, Dale-Chall 6.8

“Civil War Journal”

Difficulty Level: Average

“Hallucination” by Isaac Asimov

Difficulty Level: Easy

Readability: Lexile 790, Fry 8, Dale-Chall 6

“The Monkey’s Paw” by W. W. Jacobs

Difficulty Level: Challenging

Readability: Lexile 920, Fry 8, Dale-Chall 6.0

“Going Where I’m Coming From” by Naomi Shihab Nye

Difficulty Level: Average

Readability: Lexile 890, Fry 7, Dale-Chall 6.3

“The Story of an Eyewitness” by Jack London

Difficulty Level: Average

Readability: Lexile 950, Fry 7, Dale-Chall 8.5

“Letter from New Orleans: Leaving Desire” by Jon Lee Anderson

Difficulty Level: Average

Readability: Lexile 1030, Fry 7, Dale-Chall 6.4

“Mi Madre” by Pat Mora/ “Canyon de Chelly” by Simon J. Ortiz

Difficulty Level: Easy

Grade 8

Unit 4

“Gil’s Furniture Bought & Sold” by Sandra Cisneros

Difficulty Level: Easy

Readability: Lexile 1070, Fry 6, Dale-Chall 5.7

“Pandora’s Box” retold by Louis Untermeyer

Difficulty Level: Challenging

Readability: Lexile 930, Fry 9, Dale-Chall 6.5

“The Old Grandfather and His Little Grandson” retold by Leo Tolstoy

Difficulty Level: Easy

Readability: Lexile 870, Fry 5, Dale-Chall 5

“The Wise Old Woman” retold by Yoshiko Uchida

Difficulty Level: Easy

Readability: Lexile 980, Fry 7, Dale-Chall 7.3

HOLT McDougal

 HOUGHTON MIFFLIN HARCOURT

“My Mother Pieced Quilts” by Teresa Palomo Acosta/ “quilting” by Lucille Clifton
Difficulty Level: Easy

“The Diary of Anne Frank” by Frances Goodrich and Albert Hackett
Difficulty Level: Average

“Beyond *The Diary of Anne Frank*”
Difficulty Level: Average
Readability: Lexile 870, Fry 8, Dale-Chall 7.1

Grade 8
Unit 5

“Simile: Willow and Ginkgo” by Eve Merriam/ “Introduction to Poetry” by Billy Collins
Difficulty Level: Easy

“the lesson of the moth” by Don Marquis/ “Identity” by Julio Noboa
Difficulty Level: Easy

“It’s all I have to bring today—” by Emily Dickenson/ “We Alone” by Alice Walker
Difficulty Level: Average

“Mother to Son” by Langston Hughes/ “Speech to the Young Speech to the Progress-
Toward (Among them Nora and Henry III)” by Gwendolyn Brooks
Difficulty Level: Easy

“On the Grasshopper and Cricket” by John Keats/ “Ode to Solitude” by Alexander Pope
Difficulty Level: Challenging

“One More Round” by Maya Angelou/ “Not My Bones” by Marilyn Nelson
Difficulty Level: Average/Challenging

from *Fortune’s Bones*
Difficulty Level: Average

“Boots of Spanish Leather” by Bob Dylan/ “The Song of Hiawatha” by Henry
Wadsworth Longfellow
Difficulty Level: Average/Challenging

Grade 8
Unit 6

“New York Day Women” by Edwidge Danticat
Difficulty Level: Average
Readability: Lexile 920, Fry 7, Dale-Chall 7.1

“The Lady or the Tiger?” by Frank R. Stockton
Difficulty Level: Challenging
Readability: Lexile 1310, Fry 9, Dale-Chall 8.4

“The Monty Hall Debate”
Difficulty Level: Average
Readability: Lexile 1140, Fry 9, Dale-Chall 6.7

“Roughing It” by Mark Twain
Difficulty Level: Challenging
Readability: Lexile 1230, Fry 11, Dale-Chall 7.2

“Us and Them” by David Sedaris
Difficulty Level: Average
Readability: Lexile 1100, Fry 7, Dale-Chall 7

“O Captain! My Captain!”/ “I Saw Old General at Bay” both by Walt Whitman
Difficulty Level: Average

Grade 8
Unit 7

“The Snapping Turtle” by Joseph Bruchac
Difficulty Level: Easy
Readability: Lexile 900, Fry 6, Dale-Chall 6.4

“Out of Bounds” by Beverley Naidoo
Difficulty Level: Challenging
Readability: Lexile 790, Fry 5, Dale-Chall 6.6

“Pecos Bill” retold by Mary Pope Osborne
Difficulty Level: Average
Readability: Lexile 950, Fry 6.5, Dale-Chall 6.2

“One Last Time” by Gary Soto
Difficulty Level: Average
Readability: Lexile 1140, Fry 8, Dale-Chall 6.20

“I Want to Write”/ “Sit-Ins” both by Margaret Walker
Difficulty Level: Easy

Grade 8
Unit 8

“The Spider Man Behind *Spider-Man*” by Bijal P. Trivedi
Difficulty Level: Average
Readability: Lexile 1240, Fry 8, Dale-Chall 7.8

“Over the Top” by Renee Skelton
Difficulty Level: Average
Readability: Lexile 1030, Fry 9, Dale-Chall 7.6

“Interview with a Songcatcher” by Brian Handwerk
Difficulty Level: Average
Readability: Lexile 820, Fry 7, Dale-Chall 6.4

“Kabul’s Singing Sensation” by Tim McGirk
Difficulty Level: Challenging
Readability: Lexile 1180, Fry 9.5, Dale-Chall 7.9

“Eureka: Scientific Twists of Fate”
Difficulty Level: Average
Readability: Lexile 1230, Fry 11, Dale-Chall 8

“Robo-Legs” by Michel Marriott
Difficulty Level: Challenging
Readability: Lexile 1150, Fry 13, Dale-Chall 9

Grade 8
Unit 9

“Zoos: Myth and Reality” by Rob Laidlaw
Difficulty Level: Challenging
Readability: Lexile 1420, Fry 13, Dale-Chall 9

“Zoos Connect Us to the Natural World” by Michael Hutchins
Difficulty Level: Average
Readability: Lexile 1450, Fry 13, Dale-Chall 9.1

“Position on Dodgeball in Physical Education” NASPE
Difficulty Level: Challenging
Readability: Lexile 1310, Fry 13, Dale-Chall 8.9

“The Weak Shall Inherit the Gym” by Rick Reilly
Difficulty Level: Average
Readability: Lexile 800, Fry 6, Dale-Chall 7.3

“The Sanctuary of School” by Lynda Barry
Difficulty Level: Average
Readability: Lexile 1050, Fry 8, Dale-Chall 6.4

“Educating Sons” by Chief Canasatego
Difficulty Level: Average
Readability: Lexile 1110, Fry 6.5, Dale-Chall 6.3

“The First Americans” The Grand Council Fire of American Indians
Difficulty Level: Average
Readability: Lexile 900, Fry 7, Dale-Chall 6.0