

## Choosing a Short Text

Your students should ideally be reading texts at a level appropriate to their reading development, or have teaching support to help them access texts outside their normal reading range.

### **WITHIN A STUDENT'S READING RANGE**

To determine a good fit between the student and the short text, you can use:

- subjective data including:
  - students' prior knowledge of or interest in the topic
  - support provided during reading (e.g. the text being read aloud)
- objective assessment—Short Reads Non-fiction text was assessed in three ways:
  - colour wheel/book bands
  - reading level (as levelled by Scholastic)
  - Lexile® (as levelled by MetaMetrics<sup>2</sup>)

### **BEYOND A STUDENT'S READING RANGE**

You might choose a text that is outside a student's normal reading range, perhaps because the text fits with a classroom study topic, or because students are not from English-speaking backgrounds.

You can support students by:

- providing background information about the topic
- clarifying the vocabulary in advance
- reading the text aloud
- using 'think aloud' techniques to model ways to access the text
- actively engaging the students in conversations about what they've read

## Scheduling Short Reads in the Classroom

The cards are designed as teacher-led, small group activities and should be an alternative to other group activities. Because the cards are short, your class should be able to read, re-read and discuss a card in one lesson of 20–30 minutes. Students may then complete two independent writing activities, which should each take between 10 and 20 minutes.



<sup>1</sup> Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers. (2012). PARCC model content frameworks: English language arts/literacy grades 3–11. Version 2.0. Retrieved from [www.parcconline.org/resources/educator-resources/model-content-frameworks/ela-model-content-framework/structure-of-the-model-content-frameworks-for-ela-literacy](http://www.parcconline.org/resources/educator-resources/model-content-frameworks/ela-model-content-framework/structure-of-the-model-content-frameworks-for-ela-literacy)

<sup>2</sup> Lexile, Lexile Framework and the Lexile symbol are U.S. registered trademarks of MetaMetrics Inc.

# Titles (by text-type, genre, reading levels) BOX 1

Text Type	Genre	Title	Lexile*	Reading Levels*
Description	Observation	Look at Frogs	200L	8
Discussion	Email	Busy Day Emails	BR	2
Explanation	Encyclopedia	What Is a Fruit?	150L	5
	Fact File	I See the Weather	BR	2
	Magazine	How Does My Garden Grow?	BR	2
	Q&A Book	Animals of the Sea	BR	2
		Fly, Swim, or Jump?	BR	2
		How Many Animals?	200L	8
		What Do You See?	BR	2
		What Is in the Tree?	160L	6
Exposition	Flyer	Freya's Fresh Fruits	160L	5
Procedure	Instructions	How to Draw a Mouse	170L	6
		How to Mix Paint Colours	140L	4
		Make a Fresh Food Face	200L	8
		Make a Fruit Face	BR	1
		Make a Paper Plate Fish	180L	7
Recount	Diary	My Day at the Airport	150L	5
		My Day at the Park	160L	6
		My Forest	BR	2
		Our Trip to the Farm	BR	1
	Email	Emails from the Beach	160L	6
		My Email to Ben	BR	2
	Scrapbook	My Pet Scrapbook	BR	1
Report	Encyclopedia	Apples	180L	7
		Camels	140L	4
		Trees All Year Long	120L	3
	Fact File	Dog Facts!	BR	1
		Facts About Animal Legs	130L	3
		Farm Animal Sounds	BR	1
		Guide to Fish	BR	1
		Indoor Fun	200L	8
		Painting Is Fun	190L	7
		What a Puppy Needs	140L	4
		At Night	BR	2
	Magazine	Bird Nest Facts	140L	4
		Butterflies	130L	3
		Is This a Real Animal?	120L	3
		What's the Sport?	180L	7
	Newspaper	Dogs in Our Town	150L	5
N/A	Picture Dictionary	Letter B, The	BR	1

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Text Type	Genre	Title	Lexile*	Reading Levels*
Description	Encyclopedia	Penguins	300L	13
	Fact File	Lions	240L	9
		Oh, No! Mosquito!	230L	10
		Shore, The	250L	11
	Reference Book	Animal Look-Alikes	320L	14
Discussion	Email	Emails: Hot and Cold	240L	9
		Emails: The Air Show Is Here!	230L	10
Explanation	Encyclopedia	Shadows of the Sun	360L	15
		Teeth: Open Wide!	260L	11
	Fact File	Phones on the Move	380L	17
		Travelling on Two Wheels	360L	16
	Magazine	Do Butterflies Like Turtle Tears?	310L	13
		Growing and Changing	300L	13
		Turn Off That Tap!	240L	10
Exposition	Encyclopedia	Jane Goodall	350L	15
	Flyer	When Water Comes in Bottles	360L	15
	Magazine	Cars for the Future	390L	17
		Repurposing	370L	17
Factual Response	Interview	Interview: Author Doreen Cronin	320L	14
	Magazine	Drums Around the World	390L	17
	Q&A Book	Science Tools for Observing	320L	14
		What Is a Volcano?	360L	16
Procedure	Instructions	Chocolate Mining	390L	18
		Draw a Cartoon Monkey	280L	11
		Grow a Bean Plant	240L	10
		Make a Paper Bag Puppet	270L	11
		Make a Symmetrical Bug	230L	9
		Mixing Science and Art	280L	12
Recount	Postcard	Postcards from Across the Sea	260L	12
	Timeline	Watching the Moon	280L	12
Report	Encyclopedia	Polar Bears	400L	18
	Fact File	African Elephants	340L	15
		All About Me	230L	9
		Crocodilians	280L	12
		Super Birds	360L	16
	Guidebook	Strange Plants	360L	16
		Very Strange Fish	320L	13
	Magazine	Lot to Crow About!, A	400L	18
	Newspaper	Animal Surprises	400L	18
	Webpage	Insect: Friend or Foe	320L	14

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BOX 3

Text Type	Genre	Title	Lexile*	Reading Levels*
Explanation	Encyclopedia	Solar Eclipse	570L	23
	Fact File	Reef Predators	600L	24
	Guidebook	Guide to Clouds	570L	23
	Magazine	Does Yellow Make You Smile?	490L	21
		Fire!	560L	23
		Keep Cool, Koala!	450L	20
		Oops! Stories Behind Inventions	600L	24
	Q&A Book	Kites	430L	19
		Matter of Taste	540L	22
		Water	520L	22
Exposition	Brochure	Bicycle Academy	440L	20
		Dinosaur Days	540L	22
		Fluff & Feathers Poultry Farm	480L	21
		Purrfect Pals Cat Rescue	410L	19
	Essay	Amazing Inventions of Thomas Edison	600L	24
		Be Careful, Not Scared!	570L	23
		Chess Through the Ages	530L	22
		Story of Ping-Pong	430L	20
Factual Response	Interview	Interview with a Dog Trainer	520L	22
		Interview with a Weather Reporter	570L	23
		Interview with a Wild Animal Expert	490L	21
		Interview: Scientist Jeremy Owen	430L	20
	Q&A Book	What Is a Zoo Nutritionist?	580L	24
Procedure	Instructions	How to Build a Birdhouse	470L	21
		How to Grow Sweet Potatoes	430L	19
		How to Make an Origami Fish	410L	19
		Make a Garden in a Jar	560L	23
		Make Your Own Wrapping Paper	530L	22
Report	Encyclopedia	Great Barrier Reef	590L	24
		Musical Instruments	480L	21
	Fact File	Oceans	580L	24
		Reptiles	510L	21
		Whales and Dolphins	410L	19
	Guidebook	Animals of the Rainforest	560L	23
		Desert Animals	600L	24
		Giant Panda	580L	23
	Magazine	On to Mars!	460L	20
	Newspaper	Eiffel Tower Is 125 Years Old	460L	21
		Grizzly Bear Sends Man Up a Tree	520L	22
		World's Largest Ferris Wheel	600L	24

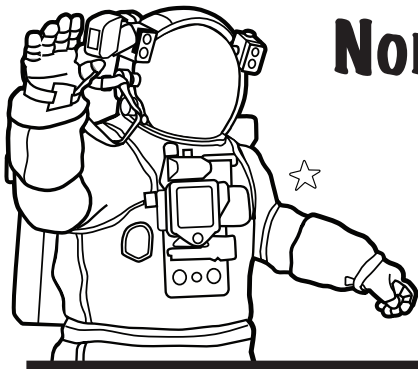
\* Lexile, Lexile Framework and the Lexile symbol are U.S. registered trademarks of MetaMetrics Inc.

Text Type	Genre	Title	Lexile*	Reading Levels*
Description	Observation	Patterns All Around	720L	27 
Explanation	Fact File	Signs and Symbols	720L	27 
	Letter	Letter from E. B. White	770L	28 
	Magazine	More Precious Than Gold?	710L	27 
	Q&A Book	Money	780L	28 
		What Are Symmetrical Shapes?	680L	26 
	Science Journal	Ancient Honey	800L	28 
Exposition	Brochure	African Plains Safaris	760L	28 
		Oak Street Farmers' Market	660L	26 
	Essay	Cockroaches: Born Survivors	640L	25 
		Cyberbullying	780L	28 
		Wake Up!	730L	27 
		Words! Words! Words!	670L	26 
	Magazine	Oil from the Earth	730L	27 
Factual Response	Interview	Animal Keeper	610L	25 
		Interview with Avi	690L	26 
	Q&A Book	Forest for the Trees	650L	25 
		What Are Maglev Trains?	710L	27 
		What's So Funny?	630L	25 
Procedure	Instructions	Do the Robot	730L	27 
		Plant and Light Experiment	710L	27 
		Smile and Say Kimchi!	620L	25 
Recount	Historical	Madame Curie	790L	28 
	Newspaper	Machine That Flies	750L	28 
	Timeline	Robots	710L	27 
Report	Encyclopedia	Deserts of the World	610L	25 
	Fact File	Fantastic Fish	630L	25 
		Incredible Invertebrates	760L	28 
		Weather	640L	25 
		Wetlands	680L	26 
		X-Treme Sports	800L	28 
	Guidebook	Extreme Weather	780L	28 
		Guide to Desert Birds	660L	26 
		Guide to Owls	720L	27 
	Magazine	Creatures of the Deep	660L	26 
		Thunderstorm!	630L	25 
	Newspaper	On This Day, April 14, 1912	670L	26 
	Reference Book	Animal Record Breakers	680L	26 
		Astounding Amphibians	710L	27 

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Text Type	Genre	Title	Lexile*	Reading Levels*
Explanation	Magazine	Australia's Amazing Animals	980L	30+ <input type="checkbox"/>
		Crime Scene Investigations	980L	30+ <input type="checkbox"/>
		Endangering Wildlife Habitats	1190L	30+ <input type="checkbox"/>
	Q&A Book	Tesselations	820L	29 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		Trapped in Time	910L	30 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		Who Needs Maths/Science?	930L	30 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Exposition	Brochure	Genghis Khan's Mongolia	1240L	30+ <input type="checkbox"/>
	Essay	Body Language Made Simple	1160L	30+ <input type="checkbox"/>
		Recycling: A System That Works!	970L	30+ <input type="checkbox"/>
		Viking Voyages	860L	29 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		Volcano That Shook the World	880L	30 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		What Killed the Dinosaurs?	1000L	30+ <input type="checkbox"/>
	Letter	Leonardo da Vinci Applies for a Job	1460L	30+ <input type="checkbox"/>
	Magazine	Foods with a Difference	1130L	30+ <input type="checkbox"/>
		Just How Smart Are Animals?	850L	29 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Speech	Moon Speech	1550L	30+ <input type="checkbox"/>
		Wangari Maathai Nobel Lecture	1150L	30+ <input type="checkbox"/>
	Telegram	Cousins in Conflict	1130L	30+ <input type="checkbox"/>
Procedure	Instructions	Acid Effect	830L	29 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		Grow Your Own Egg Crystal Geodes	910L	30 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		How Surfers Catch a Wave	980L	30+ <input type="checkbox"/>
		Magic Touch	840L	29 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Recount	Diary	Anne Frank Diary Entry	850L	29 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		Great Fire of London	1170L	30+ <input type="checkbox"/>
	Letter	Helen Keller	1110L	30+ <input type="checkbox"/>
		Letter from Rachel Carson	1060L	30+ <input type="checkbox"/>
Report	Encyclopedia	Invasive Species	970L	30+ <input type="checkbox"/>
	Fact File	Health & Wellness	920L	30 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		Solving Crime	990L	30+ <input type="checkbox"/>
	Guidebook	Guide to Extreme Structures	940L	30 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		Guide to Russia's Extreme Sites	830L	29 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		Rivers of the World: Asia	860L	29 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		South America's Extreme Sites	990L	30+ <input type="checkbox"/>
	Magazine	Frank O. Gehry: Outside In	900L	30 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Newspaper	Blizzard of 1888	1260L	30+ <input type="checkbox"/>
	Reference Book	Earthquakes	1140L	30+ <input type="checkbox"/>
		Navigators and Maps	920L	30 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Response	Book Review	Jack London Book Reviews	1560L	30+ <input type="checkbox"/>
	Interview	Elementary, My Dear Watson	1120L	30+ <input type="checkbox"/>
	Letter	Lincoln's Letter to the King of Siam	1340L	30+ <input type="checkbox"/>

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# Non-Fiction Rocket Review

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Text : \_\_\_\_\_

**4**

**facts I learnt**



**3**

**questions about the topic**



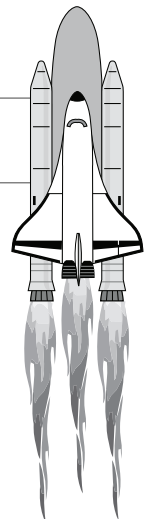
**2**

**ways to find the answers**



**1**

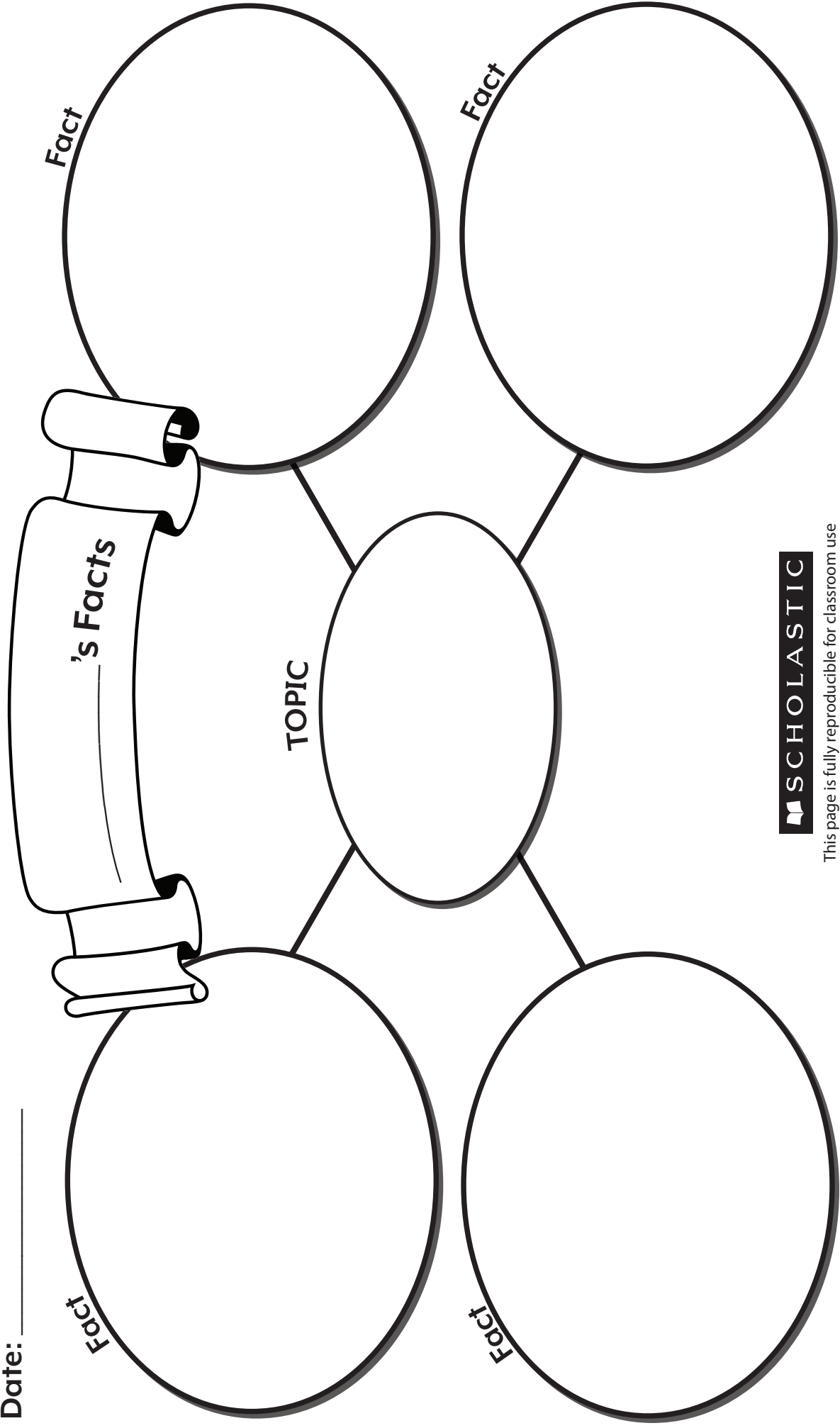
**review sentence**



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Text: \_\_\_\_\_





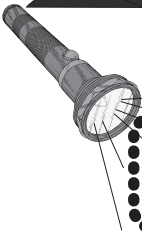
Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title: \_\_\_\_\_



# Spotlight on Words

Choose two tricky words from the text you have read.

1. Write down what you think it means after reading it in the text.
2. Look up the word in a dictionary, and write down this definition.
3. Draw a picture that helps illustrate your word.



Word

Illustration:

Word box with dotted lines for writing.

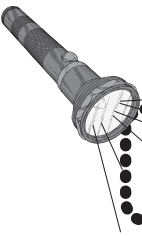
I think the word means:

Three horizontal lines for writing the meaning.

Definition:

Three horizontal lines for writing the definition.

Large empty box for drawing an illustration.



Word

Illustration:

Word box with dotted lines for writing.

I think the word means:

Three horizontal lines for writing the meaning.

Definition:

Three horizontal lines for writing the definition.

Large empty box for drawing an illustration.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Text Title: \_\_\_\_\_



## Main Idea

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### Supporting Idea

1

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### Supporting Idea

2

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### Supporting Idea

3

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# Navigating Non-Fiction

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Text: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

What was the main idea presented in the text?

Why do you think the author wrote this text?  
How do you know?

List any text features used in your text:  
(eg headings, graphs, photos...)

Who do you think was the intended audience for the text? Why?

What might make the text easier or more enjoyable to read?

Write the most interesting fact you learned from the text:

What question would you ask the author about the topic?

How and where could you find out more information about the topic discussed?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# NON-FICTION TEXT FEATURES



## FIVE FACTS

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Topic: \_\_\_\_\_

Text Purpose: \_\_\_\_\_

Audience: \_\_\_\_\_



\_\_\_\_\_



\_\_\_\_\_



\_\_\_\_\_



\_\_\_\_\_



\_\_\_\_\_

Tick any text features used.

Highlight the features that made  
the text easier to understand.

heading	introduction	map/key
subheading/s	conclusion	icon/s
table of contents	table	timeline
glossary	diagram	bullet points
bold print	photograph	thought bubbles
italic print	illustration	*
coloured print	caption	*
pronunciation guide	quote	*

## Online

hyperlink
photograph
animation/video
related articles
comment section
media/share links
*

## Why Short Reads Fiction?

### TEXTS FOR CLOSE READING AND DEEP COMPREHENSION

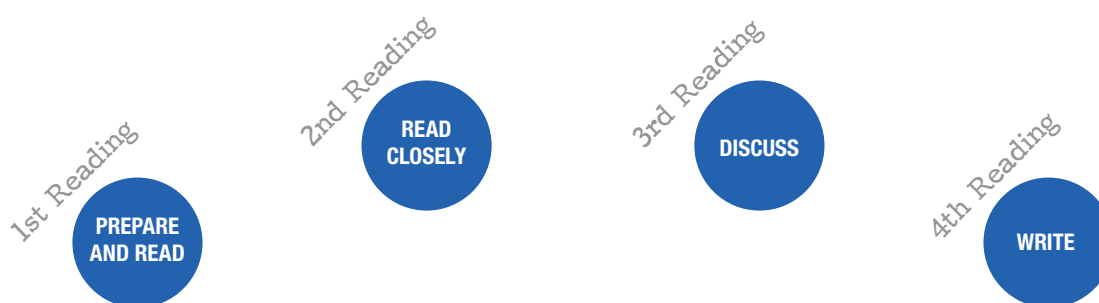
Close reading involves careful study of a short text passage to build a deep, critical understanding of the text. By developing children's comprehension and higher-order thinking skills, you can help them make sense of the world.

*"A significant body of research links the close reading of complex text—whether the student is a struggling reader or advanced—to significant gains in reading proficiency, and finds close reading to be a key component of college and career readiness."*

(Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers, 2012, p. 7)<sup>1</sup>.

### READING AND RE-READING FOR DIFFERENT PURPOSES

The texts in *Short Reads Fiction* are carefully selected and deliberately short. This focuses students on purposeful reading, re-reading and responding. They learn about the topic through rich vocabulary development and deep comprehension.



Students re-read and analyse the text through questioning to explore:

- text structure and features
- key ideas and details
- connections/conclusions
- predictions/inferences
- words and phrases in context

Students actively respond to the text using:

- higher-order thinking skills
- paired discussion
- written responses



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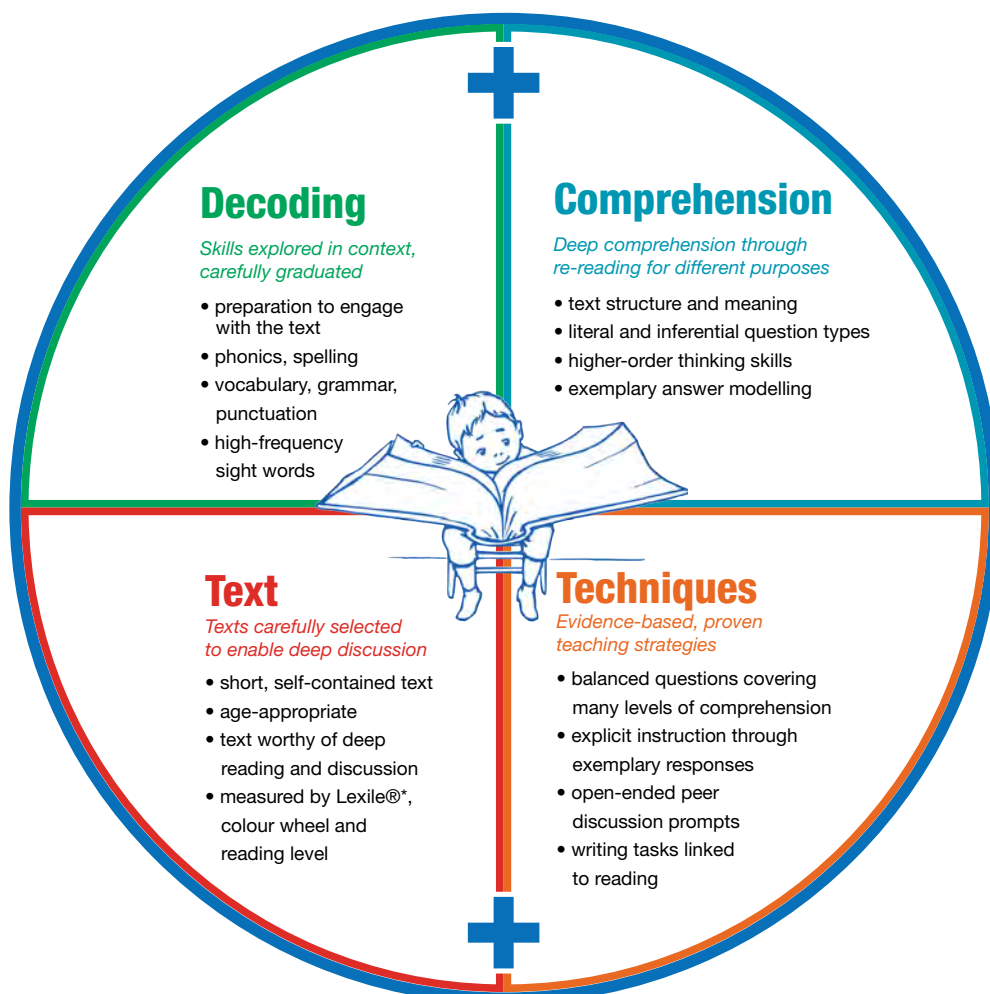
<sup>1</sup> Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers. (2012). PARCC model content frameworks: English language arts/literacy grades 3–11. Version 2.0. Retrieved from [www.parcconline.org/resources/educator-resources/model-content-frameworks/ela-model-content-framework/structure-of-the-model-content-frameworks-for-ela-literacy](http://www.parcconline.org/resources/educator-resources/model-content-frameworks/ela-model-content-framework/structure-of-the-model-content-frameworks-for-ela-literacy)

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## A Balanced Approach

Reading is a complex process that involves decoding and understanding the words, the sentences, and the text as a whole. Research indicates that students in the early years of school must be taught to ‘master the alphabetic code via systematic, explicit and intensive instruction in phonemic awareness, phonics, reading fluency, vocabulary, and reading comprehension strategies’<sup>1</sup>.

**Short Reads Fiction** enables teachers to guide young students through the entire reading process—from basic understanding through to deep comprehension—by using short, powerful texts that are explored using a range of proven teaching strategies. All these aspects combine to provide a balanced approach to reading instruction.



<sup>1</sup> Department of Education, Science and Training (DEST) 2005, Teaching reading: Literature review, Canberra, Australia: Commonwealth of Australia

## Titles in the Box (by language skills, reading levels)

Title	Lexile	Reading Level	Prominent Language Teaching Skills
My Rainy Day	BR10L	1 ■	vowel sound: short u; rhyme, simple verbs, sentence building
Get Set... Go!	BR20L	1 ■	onomatopoeia; opposites; sentence stem repetition; suffix: -er
Jumping!	BR20L	1 ■	vowel sounds: short a, i, o, u; sentence stem repetition; pronouns
Look Out!	BR20L	1 ■	positional language; digraphs: ee, oo, ss; rhyme
Play Time	BR40L	1 ■	sentence stem repetition; simple nouns; digraphs: ay
Two Ducks	BR40L	1 ■	simple verbs; sound patterns: a_e; simple plurals, pronouns
Let's Bake	BR50L	1 ■	sound patterns: a_e; numerals as words; sentence stem repetition; greeting
Hats for Sale	0L	2 ■	consonant blends: nk, ft; adjectives; opposites; description
Little Animals Move!	10L	2 ■	simple verbs; consonant blend: fl; numerals; sentence stem repetition
Beach Time!	20L	2 ■	sensory verbs; pronouns; rhyme
I Need to Sleep	20L	2 ■	capital letters: for emphasis; ellipses; digraphs: oo, ee, ll, pp, sh
A Tiny, Little Farm	40L	2 ■	comma: to separate adjectives; pronouns; digraphs: ow, oa, ar, tt
Goal!	50L	2 ■	vowel sound: short i; capital letters: for proper nouns; digraphs: ll
The Aquarium	60L	2 ■	opposites; sentence stem repetition; digraphs: ee, oo, sh
My Cat	60L	3 ■	onomatopoeia; positional language; simple verbs; digraphs: ee, ay, oo, ll, ss, sh
We Make Soup	60L	3 ■	sound patterns: a_e; digraphs: ou, ea; capital letters: for emphasis
Did Bear Share?	80L	3 ■	questions and answers; proper nouns; rhyme
My Farm	80L	3 ■	sound patterns: i_e; sentence stem repetition; pronouns; digraphs: ck
Ali Tells a Story	90L	4 ■	digraphs: ai, ee, pp, ll; silent letters: tl; pronouns; adjectives
I Love Books	90L	4 ■	sound patterns: o_e, i_e, a_e; word repetition; sentence stem repetition
My Dog Rex	110L	4 ■	comparative adjectives; capital letters: for emphasis; digraphs: ll
Three Snow Bears	110L	4 ■	rhyme; digraphs: ee, ll, oo, ow; poetic structure
Zebra Zooms	110L	4 ■	sound patterns: a_e; alliteration; simple present tense
My Costume	120L	5 ■	word clues; sentence repetition; questions; digraphs: tt, wh; silent letters: gh
Molly and Her Robot	130L	5 ■	comparative language; adjectives of size; consonant blends: pl, sm
Meet Lily	140L	5 ■	opposites; noun-pronoun agreement; contractions; silent letters: gh
What Does Ben Like?	150L	5 ■	stative verbs; comparative language; sentence repetition
Mix It Up!	160L	6 ■	colour names; questions; conjunctions; digraphs: ll, rr
I Hate Shopping	180L	7 ■	contractions; pronouns; simple plurals; questions
Sleepy Sam	180L	7 ■	speech; questions; consonant blend: sch; silent letters: gh
Tall Towers	180L	7 ■	word building; colour names; comparative adjectives; synonyms
A Little Shark Tale	190L	7 ■	contractions; verbs: past and present tense; digraphs: sh; simple plurals
Max the Cat	190L	7 ■	suffix: -ing; rhyme; contractions; poetic structure
The Messy Park	190L	7 ■	reporting verbs in speech; silent letters: wr; suffix: -ed
Bella	200L	8 ■	opposites; suffix: -ed; consonant blends: st; trigraphs: dge
Cleaning Up	200L	8 ■	word building; rhetorical questions; idioms; suffix: -ed
I Want to Fly	200L	8 ■	syllables: longer words; future tense; speech
The Missing Mitten	200L	8 ■	compound words; positional language; suffix: -ed; questions
The Three Brothers	200L	8 ■	pronouns; colour names; compound words
Wet Clothes	200L	8 ■	synonyms; opposites; speech; silent letters: ie

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\*\* BR Lexile levels represent 'Beginner Reader' texts. The higher the number, the simpler the text.



# Titles in the Box (by language skills, reading levels)

Title	Lexile Score*	Reading Level	Prominent Language Teaching Skills
My Truck Is Stuck	210L	9 ■	trigraphs: uck; consonant blends: st; silent letters: k; simple plurals; plurals with no change
How High?	220L	9 ■	digraphs: th; trigraphs: dge; silent letters: gh; dialogue; alliteration
Don't Be Late!	230L	10 ■	digraphs: ea; silent letters: gh; contractions; numerals as words; time; compound words
Sam the Seagull	240L	10 ■	digraphs: ch, gh; compound words; syllables; past tense; present continuous tense
The Not-So-True Story of the Little Red Hen	250L	11 ■	digraphs: ea, ee, ck; silent letters: w, h, gh; reflexive pronouns; question stem repetition
Little Red Riding Hood	260L	11 ■	digraphs: oo, ay, ou; compound words; nouns as names; possessives
Milton and Mona	260L	11 ■	consonant blends: cr, cl; silent letters: l, o; opposites; spelling rule for past tense of one-syllable verbs
The Fox and the Stork	260L	11 ■	digraphs: or, ou, ck, sh, tt; sound patterns: a_e; dialogue; adverbial submodifier
Two Squirrels	260L	11 ■	silent letters: n; seasons; colours; dialogue; plural of nouns ending in -f
Are We There Yet?	270L	12 ■	digraphs: th, ck, ee, dd, ll, pp, zz, tt, ss; trigraphs: dge; adjectives; regular and irregular past tense
The Perfect Day	270L	12 ■	digraphs: er/ur, oo/ue/ew, sh, ch; trigraphs: tch; homophones; past tense
Penguin and Albatross	280L	12 ■	'a' that sounds like 'or'; contractions; sentence stem repetition
Three Funny Geese	280L	12 ■	digraphs: gh, ee, oa, oo, ow; plurals with vowel change; adjectives of degree
Why Did the Chicken Cross the Road?	290L	13 ■	digraphs: ch, ck, ou, ow, sh; consonant blends: cr, dr, fl, st; silent letters: gh; opposites; similes
Animal Poems	300L	13 ■	rhyming words; alliteration; syllables; adjectives; synonyms
Plenty of Time	300L	13 ■	digraphs: oo, th, ee, sh, ow; trigraphs: tch; consonant blends: sch; opposites; digital time
The Birthday Party	300L	13 ■	silent letters: gh; contractions; compound words; nouns as names; capital letters for emphasis
Three Little Robins	300L	13 ■	digraphs: ee, ow, ou; consonant blends: st, br, gr; simple and comparative adjectives
The Bell and the Cat	310L	14 ■	digraphs: ou, ow, oo; silent letters: h, t, w; adjectives; plurals with vowel change; future tense
Five Foolish Frogs	320L	14 ■	digraphs: ch, sh; alliteration; commas in lists; superlative adjectives; present tense
Big Foot Little Foot	330L	15 ■	digraphs: gh, ge; compound words; silent letters: gh, k; pronouns; opposites
Eat Your Greens!	330L	15 ■	digraphs: ch, qu, ow; consonant blends: gr, pl, pr; irregular past tense
Detective Ali	340L	15 ■	silent letters: h, l, w; compound words; past tense; apostrophe for possession; possessives
The Nightingale	340L	15 ■	digraphs: er, ir, pp; multisyllabic words; verb forms; simple and comparative adjectives; adverbs
Catfish Carlos and the Sitting Contest	350L	16 ■	alliteration; digraphs: ow; compound words; past tense; superlative adverbs
Olivia's Painting	350L	16 ■	digraphs: sh, ai, ge; trigraphs: eau; colours; present and past tense
The Ant and the Grasshopper	350L	16 ■	digraphs: mm, nn, oo, ss, pp, rr, gh; silent letters: gh; present and past tense; homonyms
How Anansi Got Thin Legs	360L	16 ■	digraphs: ay, ll; syllables; idioms; nouns as names; possessives
How Our Garden Grew	360L	16 ■	digraphs: bb, pp, ss; consonant blends: fl, pl; sound patterns: a_e; possessives; mass nouns
Poems About Family	360L	16 ■	rhyming words; compound words; contractions; verse; capital letters
The Fox and the Crows	360L	16 ■	digraphs: ea, ee, ie; trigraphs: eau; silent letters: gh, h, l; adjectives; adverbs
Brave Brad and the Dragon	370L	17 ■	alliteration; consonant blends: br, dr; simple, comparative and superlative adjectives; similes; commands
Cinderella	380L	17 ■	trigraphs: tch; compound words; ellipsis; comma after introductory phrase; silent letters: k, gh, h, l, w
Martin Bloom Had a Messy Room	380L	17 ■	rhyming words; digraphs: ss, zz; silent letters: h, k, w; adjectives; plural of nouns ending in -f
Saving Spotty the Cat	380L	17 ■	digraphs: gh, sh; trigraphs: eau, tch; silent letters: sh, l, w; onomatopoeia; adjectives
Snowy Night	380L	17 ■	consonant blends: fr, tw; compound words; silent letters: gh, t; commands; quotation marks
The Bundle of Sticks	380L	17 ■	homophones; homonyms; adjectives; rhetorical questions; parentheses enclosing whole sentence
The Perfect Car	380L	17 ■	digraphs: ll, sh, ge; contractions; silent letters: gh; adjectives; possessives; synonyms
Lee Makes Plans	400L	18 ■	digraphs: oo, ow; silent letters: gh, l; present and past tense; comma after introductory word
The Frog Prince	400L	18 ■	digraphs: ce; words linked by 'and' to suggest great extent; sentence stem repetition

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\*\* BR Lexile levels represent 'Beginner Reader' texts. The higher the number, the simpler the text.

# Titles in the Box (by language skills, reading levels)

Title	Lexile Score	Reading Level	Prominent Language Teaching Skills
The Leaping Contest	420L	19 ■	digraphs: ll, pp, ss; homophones; synonyms; comparative & superlative forms; parentheses around comment
The Princess and the Pea	420L	19 ■	spelling rules: words ending in s, consonant + y; alliteration; commas between adjectives
Clarabella Wild Wonder Child	450L	20 ■	digraphs: uu, ch; trigraphs: tch; new English words; suffix: -ion; hyphenated adjectives
The Fox and the Grapes	450L	20 ■	digraphs: ch; root words; collective nouns; nouns referring to time; commas between adjectives
The Lion and the Mouse	450L	20 ■	digraphs: aw; silent letters: e, g, gh, h, l, i; suffixes: -ness; idioms; apostrophe for possession
Stone Soup	460L	20 ■	digraphs: ll; root words; alliteration; onomatopoeia; ordinal numbers; duplicate adjectives
The Birds of Killingworth	460L	20 ■	digraphs: ow, ui; silent letters: n, t; antonyms; metaphorical language; anthropomorphism; superlatives
Country Mouse and City Mouse	470L	20 ■	digraphs: ou; silent letters: e in ve; dialogue in separate paragraphs; possessives; contractions
How Sun, Moon and Wind Went Out to Dinner	470L	20 ■	suffixes: -ful; prefixes: dis-; short u sound; anthropomorphism; regular & irregular verbs
Pinocchio	470L	20 ■	suffixes: -ette, -ful; homophones; character archetypes; foreshadowing; thought/speech attributions
The Tortoise and the Hare	470L	20 ■	sounds: air, er; contractions; present participles; gerunds; colon to introduce information
Aussie Dog	480L	21 ■	silent letters: l, w; past continuous tense; senses; comma after fronted adverbial; paragraphs
Larrikin Lane	480L	21 ■	silent letters: b, h; sounds: f as gh; compound words; similes; adjectives; adverbs; modal verbs
The Finest Liar in the World	480L	21 ■	digraphs: ou; tall tales; adverbs; speech within speech; speech across multiple paragraphs
Losing Reuben	490L	21 ■	digraphs: ch; trigraphs: tch; letter groups: sc; silent letters: b, h; metaphors, similes; em dashes
Mother Holle	490L	21 ■	digraphs: ea; homophones; letter groups: el; anthropomorphism; prepositions of time; em dashes
Birbal the Wise	500L	21 ■	letter group: ong; stem words; Indian words; suffix: ion; comma when addressing someone
Flynn of the Air	500L	21 ■	digraphs: ch; phonemes: f as f/ff/gh/ph; silent letters: gh; similes; anthropomorphism
Poems About Feelings	500L	21 ■	letter groups: ound; rhyme; onomatopoeia; similes; exclamations, commands
The Crow and the Jug	500L	21 ■	suffixes: -ful, -ly; silent letters: h, t; thought attribution: no quotation marks; anthropomorphism
The Emperor's New Clothes	500L	21 ■	homophones; archaic terms; compound words; exclamations; comma after introductory phrase
Why the Bear Has a Short Tail	510L	22 ■	digraphs: ng; reflexive pronouns; sound: or, our; ellipses; conjunctions to introduce coordinate clauses
The Memory Shed	520L	22 ■	digraphs: ss, zz; consonant blends: spl; informal language; Australian English; present/past tense verbs
Good Luck, Bad Luck	530L	22 ■	suffixes: -able, -ful, -ly; rhetorical questions; spelling rules; nouns of gender; adverbs
Summer Dragons	530L	22 ■	consonant blends: sc; suffixes: -less; syllables; hyphenated compound words; metaphors
The Six Hungry Beasts	530L	22 ■	spelling rules: words ending in ve; compound words; verbs of motion; commas in a list; anthropomorphism
Too-Too the Listener	540L	23 ■	homonyms; onomatopoeia; hyperbole; sensory language; possessive plurals; nouns as names
An Artist's Sight	550L	23 ■	consonant blends: sk; suffixes: -ion; senses; commas in list; colon to introduce information
The Kind Prince	550L	23 ■	suffixes: -ling; spelling rules: irregular verbs; silent letters: h, t; compound words
Crikey!	560L	23 ■	consonant blends: st, str; alliteration; rhyming words; noun phrases; incomplete sentences
The Amazing Kettle	560L	23 ■	suffixes: -some; spelling rules: words ending in l; adjectival phrases; similes; narration
The Sly Thief	560L	23 ■	make adjective from noun, adverb from adjective: add -y/-ly/-ily; colon to introduce information
Hans the Helpful	560L	23 ■	chain stories; humour; hyphenated compound words; nouns of agency; adjectives: -ous
Babette	570L	24 ■	silent letters: w; pronunciation: language, mayor; nouns ending in -er; modal verbs
Hans in Luck	570L	24 ■	digraphs: sc; spelling rules: y endings; letter groups: old; irony; adverbs of manner; synonyms
Spider Poems	570L	24 ■	prefixes to make adverbs; pronouns: reflexive; alliteration; rhyme; anthropomorphism
The First Law	570L	24 ■	letter groups: tion; hyphenated nouns; similes; anthropomorphism; ellipses; em dashes
The Stonecutter	570L	24 ■	letter groups: ain; spelling rules: words ending in y; sounds: ce as s; suffixes: -er; prefixes: un-
Daydreaming	600L	24 ■	letter groups: su, ise; soliloquy; metaphor; dialogue in multiple paragraphs; double quotation marks
The Boy Who Dreamed	600L	24 ■	nonlinear narrative; suffixes: -ious; words ending in ve; letter groups: sw; spelling rules

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# Titles in the Box (by language skills, reading levels)

Title	Lexile Score	Reading Level	Prominent Language Teaching Skills
Elephant Alert	610L	25 ■	adjectives to adverbs: -ly; hyphenated adjectives; similes; sensory images; onomatopoeia
Skellig	610L	25 ■	digraphs: tch; alliteration; hyperbole; description; commas in lists; em dash to show break
The Great Noise	610L	25 ■	fronted adverbials; anaphora; alliteration; onomatopoeia; synecdoche; neologisms
Refugee	620L	25 ■	suffixes: ee; numbers in dates; numbers below ten; first-person narrative; recount
The Trek	620L	25 ■	commas after fronted adverbials; pronouns; anaphora (word repetition); hyperbole
The Winged Girl	620L	25 ■	prefixes: ex-; suffixes: -sion, -tion; archaic elements; neologisms; past-perfect tense
Why Monkeys Live in Trees	630L	25 ■	exclamation; regional spellings; pourquoi or just-so story; anthropomorphism
Elephant Poems	640L	25 ■	ordinal numbers; rhyme; similes; nonsense words; humour; parentheses around asides
Gelert	640L	25 ■	Welsh words and pronunciation; epilogue; captions; commas used with nonrestrictive elements
Kerenza	640L	25 ■	Letter groups: owl; words ending in -le; similes; conjunctions; French pronunciation
The Wreckers	640L	25 ■	letter groups: sure; plurals of numbers; rhyme; metaphors; personification, archaic word order
Midas and the Golden Touch	650L	25 ■	suffixes: -ful; -ious; -ous, -en; objective pronoun: whom; fronted adverbials
The Deadly Flu	650L	25 ■	digraphs: ch; numbers in words; punctuation of direct speech; formal terms of address; Latin words
Tiger Tangle	650L	25 ■	plural nouns; suffixes: -dom; simple past and past participles; euphemisms
Broad, Tall and Eyes of Flame	660L	26 ■	digraphs: dg; informal language; video game vocabulary; parentheses around comment or aside
The Golden Windows	670L	26 ■	similes; metaphors; symbolism; adverbial phrases of time; indirect speech to report dialogue
The Wonderful Wizard of Oz	690L	26 ■	letter groups: ful; prefixes: un-; modal verbs; puns; humour; subjunctive case
The Secret Garden	700L	26 ■	regional accents and vocabulary; apostrophe used for missing letters; contractions; prepositions
Bug Muldoon and the Killer in the Rain	710L	27 ■	digraphs: ea; suffixes: ive; practice vs practise; simile; personification; anthropomorphism
How the Buffalo Were Released on Earth	710L	27 ■	comma used after interjection; USA-specific words; suffixes: -ion; silent letters: o
The Triantiwontigongolope	720L	27 ■	hyphenated nouns; idioms; similes; alliteration; direct speech written as poetry
The Wind and the Sun	720L	27 ■	digraphs: qu; suffixes; prefixes: dis-, un-; ordinal numbers; personification
20,000 Leagues Under the Sea	740L	27 ■	adjectives with -able, -ible; em dashes around phrase or clause; metaphor; simile; semicolons
Bird Poems	750L	27 ■	compound words; rhyme; alliteration; simile; personification; inverted structure; semicolons
Wali Dâd the Good-Hearted	750L	27 ■	trigraphs: our; modal verbs; anaphora, epithet, chain storytelling, persuasive character
Icarus and Daedalus	760L	28 ■	suffixes: -ful; y pronounced as i; conjunctions; similes; regional pronunciation: Daedalus
Issun Boshi, the One-Inch Boy	760L	28 ■	suffixes: -ful; silent letters: b, u, w; anaphora; storytelling device; hyperbole; commas in a list
Peter Pan	760L	28 ■	silent e to change meaning (breath/breathe); authorial intrusion; personification; metaphors
Through the Dragon Glass	760L	28 ■	prefixes: trans-; suffixes: -al; similes; em dashes: to mark break in speech or change in thought
Why the Sun and the Moon Live in the Sky	760L	28 ■	suffixes: changing words ending in y; adverbial adjuncts; personification; fairy tale opening
The Ridgepole	780L	28 ■	silent letters: h; prefixes: un-; suffixes: -ville; hyphenated compound adjectives; hyperbole
The Sword in the Stone	780L	28 ■	prefixes: dis-; archaic terms; storytelling phrases; relative pronouns; hyphenated nouns
Martin Rattler	790L	28 ■	digraphs: sc pronounced s, sk; letter groups: sur; metaphors; similes; dialect; background research
Māui and the Gigantic Fish (Te Ika A Māui)	790L	28 ■	letter groups: sc pronounced s, sk; similes; Māori words; commas in terms of address
The Five Children and It	790L	28 ■	letter groups: sc; suffixes: -ness; nouns of agency; authorial intrusion; similes
The 3 Questions	790L	28 ■	letter groups: ough; correlative conjunctions; irony; personification; anaphora
Prometheus the Fire-Giver	800L	28 ■	digraphs: eu; fronted adverbials; origin story; narrative
The Two Foolish Frogs	800L	28 ■	suffixes: when to double last consonant; sounds: -tion as shn; humour; anthropomorphism
The Wind in the Willows	800L	28 ■	prefixes: in-, ir-; hyphenated adjectives; similes; hyperbole; onomatopoeia; alliteration
Theseus and the Minotaur	800L	28 ■	Greek names; numbers written as words; mythical beast; inversion; silent letters: w

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# Titles in the Box (by language skills, reading levels)

Title	Lexile Score*	Reading Level	Prominent Language Teaching Skills
Mr Deane Goes Missing	810L	29 ■	word families; compound cardinal numbers; archaic language; broken sentences; foreshadowing
Poems of the Sea	820L	29 ■	rhyme; personification; contrast; irony; similes; antonyms; prefixes: un-; suffixes: -ous
The Caucus Race	820L	29 ■	nonsense writing; puns; onomatopoeia; rhetorical questions; prefixes: arch-; letter groups: ble
The Young King	820L	29 ■	aphorisms; metaphors; similes; prefixes: dis-; hyphenated compound adjectives
Coral Island	830L	29 ■	metaphors; similes; plural pronouns; word endings: le; fronted adverbials of time
Great Expectations	830L	29 ■	broken dialogue sentences; archaic terms; non-standard English; suffixes: -ness, -ly
The Great Mouse Plot	830L	29 ■	direct address to reader; idiom; simile; hyperbole; antithesis; fronted adverbials of time
The Riddle of the Frozen Flame	830L	29 ■	irony; paradox; idioms; non-standard English; hyphenated compound adjectives; fronted adverbials
Voyage to Botany Bay	830L	29 ■	foreshadowing; nautical terms; metaphors; similes; suffixes: al; letter groups: ui; homographs
Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde	840L	29 ■	synonyms; idioms; puns; similes; zoomorphism; prefixes: dis-; suffixes: -ence, -ward
The Ride	850L	29 ■	idiom; metaphor; foreshadowing; simile; zoomorphism; colons & semicolons in list
The Incredible Powers of Montague Towers	860L	29 ■	humour; rhetorical question; anaphora; prefixes: dis-, mis-, un-; dialogue without attribution
Three Men in a Boat	860L	29 ■	hyperbole; irony; understatement; pun; root word: some; hyphenated compound adjectives
A Columbus of Space	880L	30 ■	simile; metaphor; idiom; regional pronunciation; numerals with decimal point; suffixes: ity
Les Misérables	880L	30 ■	French words, terms of address; dialogue broken by attribution; archaic terms
The Vacant Country	880L	30 ■	literary spelling; root words; archaic words and syntax; idioms; em dashes; prefixes: in-, un-
A Study in Scarlet	900L	30 ■	colloquialism; formal terms; scientific terms; letter groups: ui; suffixes: -ment; digraphs: ae
Jabberwocky	900L	30 ■	nonsense words; portmanteau words; rhyme; double quotation marks (quotes within quotes)
The Three Tasks	910L	30 ■	cyclic storyline; contrasting characters; root word: spite; prefixes: im, en
Athena and Arachne	920L	30 ■	archaic words & sentence forms; similes; prefixes: -un; word stem: know; possession
Odysseus and Telemachus	920L	30 ■	subjunctive mood; metaphors; interjections; prefixes: re-; suffixes: -ess
The Giant's Causeway	920L	30 ■	asides; foreshadowing; rhetorical questions; similes; alliteration; regional spelling; synonyms
The Melting Pot	920L	30 ■	colloquial language; rhetorical question; metaphors; silent letters: gh, h, w; gerunds
Fremantle Prison Break	930L	30 ■	semicolon between equal parts of sentence; technical terms; archaic terms; similes
Robin Hood	930L	30 ■	inverted sentence structure; idioms; similes; archaic language; adverbs & adjectives ending in ly
Grasp All, Lose All	950L	30+ □	words of Indian origin; reflexive pronouns; metaphors; alliteration; suffixes: -ous; compound nouns
The Moon Metal	960L	30+ □	titles/forms of address; idioms; similes; cliffhanger; suffixes: -er, -ist
My Father's War	970L	30+ □	diary; similes; incomplete sentences; letter groups: ble; ellipses to show missing text
The Pied Piper of Hamelin	970L	30+ □	nouns of agency; extended fronted adverbial phrases; rhetorical question; litotes
Domingo's Cat	1000L	30+ □	Portuguese words; metaphor; simile; personification; irony; anthropomorphism; fronted adverbial phrases
Fragments of a Life	1010L	30+ □	relative clauses; archaic words; similes; idioms; modal verbs; suffixes: -ation, -ent
The Red-Headed League	1010L	30+ □	broken dialogue; foreshadowing; 'or' sound; suffixes: -able; comma after interjection
Escaping Sirens and Monsters	1020L	30+ □	first-person retelling; content-specific vocabulary; passive voice; vivid description
Hou Yi: The Grand Archer	1050L	30+ □	onomatopoeia; storytelling phrases; personification; puns; fronted adverbial phrases (time); adjectives
Gulliver's Travels	1080L	30+ □	archaic language; foreshadowing; fronted adverbials followed by comma; silent letters: gh, b, t, w
War of the Worlds	1100L	30+ □	similes; metaphors; fronted adverbial phrases followed by comma; suffixes: -ular, -like, -ous
Atalanta's Race	1180L	30+ □	synonyms; passive voice; similes; onomatopoeia; idioms; digraphs: ei; suffixes: al
Treasure Island	1250L	30+ □	metaphor; simile; foreshadowing; oxymoron; idioms; root word: anchor
A Tale of Space and Time	1260L	30+ □	nouns of agency; paradox; personification; scientific terms; rhetorical questions; suffixes: -ian
Snake	1290L	30+ □	repetition, alliteration, assonance, consonance, rhetorical questions, sibilance

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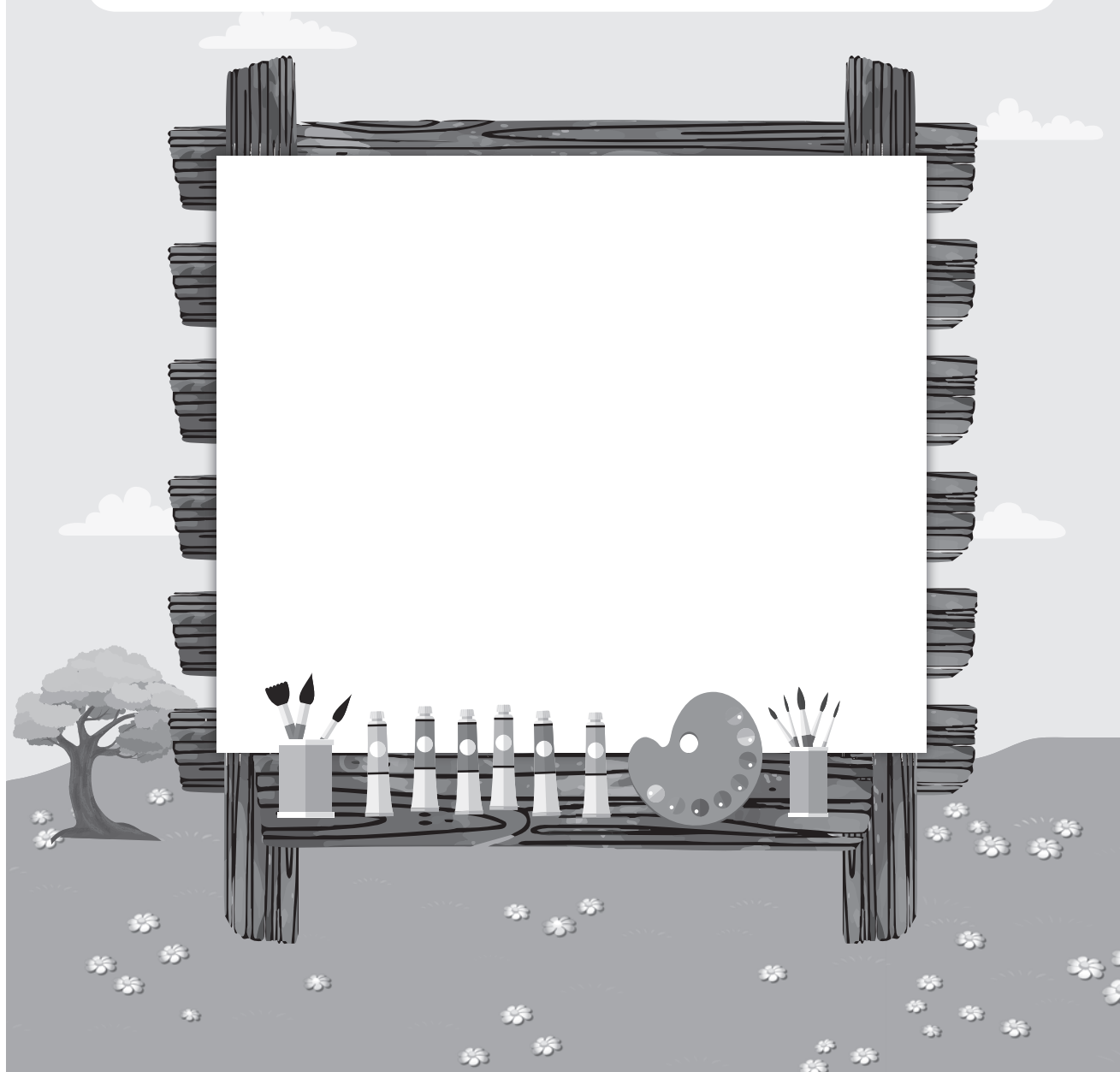
\*\* BR Lexile levels represent 'Beginner Reader' texts. The higher the number, the simpler the text.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Setting

Draw a picture of where the story took place.

Title \_\_\_\_\_





Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Story Sequence

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Author: \_\_\_\_\_

Beginning

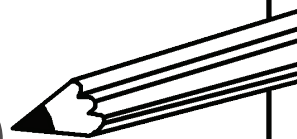
Middle

End

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Story Elements



Title \_\_\_\_\_

Characters  
(who the story was about)

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Setting  
(where the story took place)

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Plot  
(what happened in the story)

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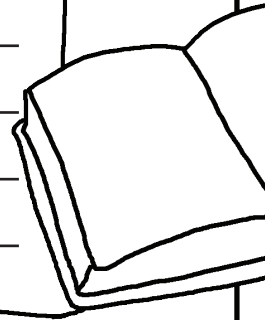
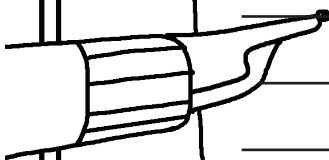
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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

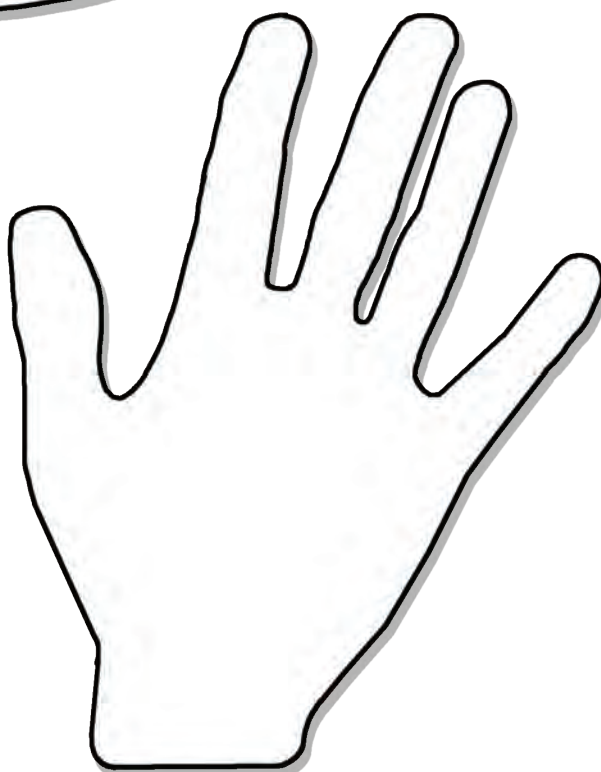
## See-Hear-Feel

Book Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Author: \_\_\_\_\_

Main Character: \_\_\_\_\_

Imagine you are the main character in the story. What do you see, hear and feel?





Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## • ALL ABOUT THE MAIN CHARACTER •

Main Character: \_\_\_\_\_

Book Title: \_\_\_\_\_

### Portrait

### Appearance

How does the character look?

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### Personality

Score the character for each personality trait. Mark your score on the line.

greedy \_\_\_\_\_ generous

sad/angry \_\_\_\_\_ happy

silly \_\_\_\_\_ clever

shy \_\_\_\_\_ bold

lazy \_\_\_\_\_ hard-working

Explain how your personality is similar to or different from the main character's personality.

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Author: \_\_\_\_\_

### Interesting Words

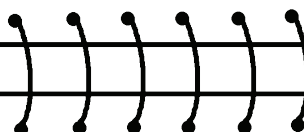
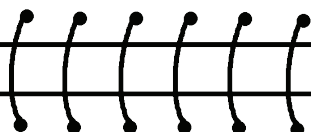


**EUREKA!**

Find two interesting words in the story.

Write the full sentences containing these words. Underline the words.

Think of three words you could use instead of each word. (Make sure the sentences still make sense!)



### Interesting Phrases

Find two effective phrases or sentences in the story.

Effective phrases hook the attention of the reader and make them want to keep reading!

Describe why they caught your attention.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



## Story Elements

Title \_\_\_\_\_

**Characters**  
(who the story was about)

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**Setting**  
(where the story took place)

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**Plot**  
(what happened in the story)



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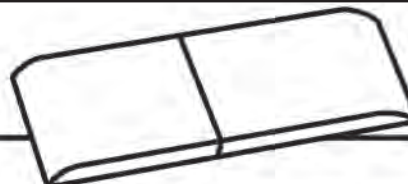
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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

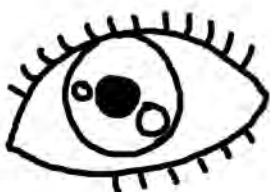
# See-Hear-Feel

Book Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Author: \_\_\_\_\_

Main Character: \_\_\_\_\_

Imagine you are the main character in the story. What do you see, hear and feel?



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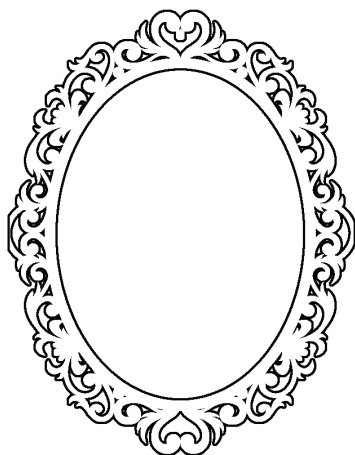
Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## ALL ABOUT THE MAIN CHARACTER

Main Character: \_\_\_\_\_

Book Title: \_\_\_\_\_



### PORTRAIT

### APPEARANCE

How does the character look?

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### PERSONALITY

Score the character for each personality trait. Mark your score on the line.

greedy \_\_\_\_\_ generous

sad/angry \_\_\_\_\_ happy

silly \_\_\_\_\_ clever

shy \_\_\_\_\_ bold

lazy \_\_\_\_\_ hard-working

Explain how your personality is similar to or different from the main character's personality.

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Author: \_\_\_\_\_

### Interesting Words

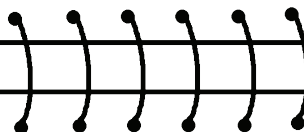
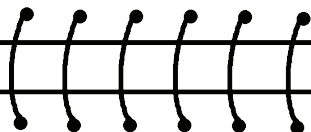


**EUREKA!**

Find two interesting words in the story.

Write the full sentences containing these words. Underline the words.

Think of three words you could use instead of each word. (Make sure the sentences still make sense!)



### Interesting Phrases

Find two effective phrases or sentences in the story.

Effective phrases hook the attention of the reader and make them want to keep reading!

Describe why they caught your attention.