Lexile Measures
IN THE LIBRARY

Lexile® measures defined
The Lexile Framework® for Reading is a scientific approach to reading and text measurement, placing both readers and texts on a common scale. The Lexile Framework includes the Lexile measure and the Lexile scale. The Lexile measure is a reading ability or text difficulty score followed by an “L” (e.g., 850L). The Lexile scale is a developmental scale for reading ranging from below 200L for beginning readers and beginning-reading text to above 1700L for advanced readers and text. The Lexile Framework matches reader ability with text difficulty, allowing you to more effectively guide students to appropriate reading choices.

Managing reader comprehension
Lexile measures allow you to manage reader comprehension by connecting students with texts that are appropriately challenging. Matching a reader’s Lexile measure with a text with the same Lexile measure leads to an expected 75-percent comprehension rate—not too difficult to be frustrating, but difficult enough to encourage reading progress. You can further adjust anticipated comprehension by choosing more or less difficult texts within a student’s suggested Lexile range of 50L above and 100L below their Lexile measure. (To see how changing a Lexile measure of a text affects comprehension, try the Lexile calculator at www.Lexile.com.)

Lexile measures widely available
Lexile measures are used at the school-level in all 50 states to improve student achievement across the curriculum. More than 28 million Lexile measures are reported annually from national and state assessments, classroom assessments and reading programs, representing about half of U.S. students. Tens of thousands of books and tens of millions of articles have Lexile measures. More than 150 publishers have Lexile measures for their titles, and the nation’s largest periodical database services provide Lexile measures for newspaper and magazine articles. This wide range of materials with Lexile measures enable you to incorporate the measures into your school library, and provide educators with another method for differentiating classroom instruction.

Finding Lexile measures for articles and books
Two of the largest periodical database providers, EBSCO and ProQuest, have Lexile measures for their articles. The databases give you and classroom teachers the ability to confidently guide students to supplemental texts that are within their Lexile ranges, and to ensure an appropriate level of comprehension.

For labeling books with Lexile measures, there are two options: 1) use the free Lexile Book Database (at www.Lexile.com) and look up your titles; or 2) contact Follett Software Company about its easy and inexpensive service that updates MARC records with Lexile measures. Providing Lexile measures in your library records allows you to create customized reading lists for students based on their Lexile ranges, interests or reading needs.

Improves communication between you and the classroom
The common scale provided by the Lexile Framework can improve communication between the classroom and the library, making it easier for you to combine your observations with those of the classroom teacher and other reading educators. Lexile measures give you the ability to collaborate more effectively with teachers to develop special collections to support class reading assignments. Plus, by indicating the readability of texts,
Lexile measures help make the library more accessible to students and empower them to be more self-directed in their reading development.

Using Lexile measures in your library

- Labeling books with Lexile measures helps students find titles of interest at their appropriate reading level.

- Comparing students’ Lexile measures with the Lexile measures of the books and periodicals in your library helps you analyze and develop the collection to more fully meet the needs of all students.

- Using the free Lexile Book Database (at www.Lexile.com) or “Find a Book” Web site (at www.lexile.com/findabook) to support book selection and create booklists within a student’s Lexile range helps you guide student reading selections.

The Lexile Framework for Reading

The Lexile Framework for Reading, developed by educational measurement company MetaMetrics®, Inc., is an indispensable part of your library, enabling you to help teachers and students make informed choices about texts. Lexile measures give you the confidence to recommend materials that will improve student reading skills and take the guesswork out of connecting readers with appropriate books and articles. If you know a student’s Lexile measure, you can tell with a great deal of accuracy which materials are appropriate for their reading ability.

For more information on using Lexile measures in the library, call 1–888–LEXILES or visit www.Lexile.com.