

Lexiles and Proficient Readers

Superintendent Bill Vogel states, “In Seminole County Public Schools, reading is the centerpiece of all we do, Kindergarten through grade 12. Our goal is for all students to become proficient readers.”

Through the use of Lexiles, students can be monitored for their reading progress and matched to instructional materials at their level. When students read comfortably they are excited about reading and it encourages them to read more.

The Lexile website, www.lexile.com, offers many useful Lexile resources for parents and teachers. One very helpful tool that you can access is the Lexile Map. The Lexile Map shows a sample of texts and titles matched to appropriate levels of reading ability. In addition, families can learn how to use Lexiles to find books for their children.



Reaching Your Reading Goals

Students hear over and over that reading is very important. But how important is reading? How good of a reader do they have to be to achieve their goals in life? Here is a text measure of entry-level occupational reading materials in various careers.

Information from Willard R. Daggett

Career Clusters	Lexile Text Measure
Agriculture	1270-1510L
Architecture/ Construction	1210-1340L
Arts/Communication	1100-1190L
Business	1210-1310L
Education	1320-1370L
Health	1260-1300L
Human Services	1050-1200L
Law/ Public Safety	1420-1740L
Manufacturing	1200-1310L
Retail	1180-1270L
Science/ Engineering	1190-1250L

With Lexiles, students see how far they have come & how far they still have to grow as readers.

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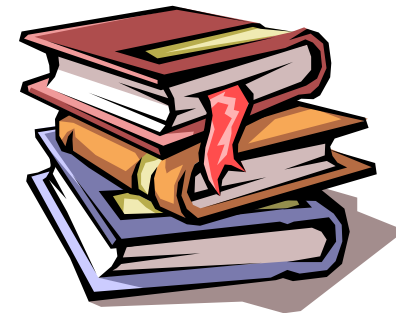
Web Site: www.scps.us



Seminole County Public Schools

A PARENT'S GUIDE TO LEXILES

Matching Readers to Text to Improve Reading Comprehension



School Board Members:

Diane Bauer

Barry Gainer

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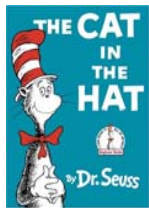
Sandra Robinson

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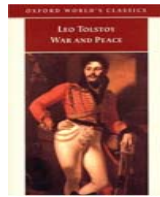
Superintendent: Dr. Bill Vogel

What are Lexiles?

Lexiles are a system of measurement that measures both reader ability and text difficulty on the same scale. The Lexile scale ranges from 200L for beginning readers and text, to above 1700L for advanced text. A Lexile measure for both readers and text is a number followed by an L (for example: “850L”).



The Cat in the Hat is leveled at 260L.



War and Peace is leveled at 1240L.

Knowing the Lexile measure of a reader and the Lexile measure of a book helps predict how the book matches the student’s reading ability, that is, whether the book may be too easy, too difficult or just right for the reader. Once you know your child’s Lexile measure, you can connect him/her to tens of thousands of books and tens of millions of articles that have Lexile measures. Most public libraries have access to online databases where you can search for newspaper and magazine articles by Lexile measure.

How does knowing the Lexile score help students?

No one would ever walk into a shoe store and ask for a “sixth grade shoe.” Shoes are fitted according to each person—and not all shoes will fit the same student. The same is true with books. No “sixth grade book” meets the needs of all sixth grade students because students are at various stages of development and knowledge in sixth grade. Books should complement students’ reading needs. By knowing students’ Lexile scores, parents and teachers can match students to reading materials that appropriately challenge, but do not frustrate, each student.



How will we know students’ Lexile scores?

Students will complete the Scholastic Reading Inventory® (SRI) three times a year. The SRI, a computer-based test, assesses reading comprehension and generates a Lexile score. Within the related Lexile range, students are appropriately challenged by the text, but will not be frustrated by the text. Matching students to the appropriate text is a key strategy for increasing reading proficiency.

Using Lexiles at Home

- Ensure that your child gets plenty of reading practice, with a minimum of 20 minutes per day at the elementary level. Try to concentrate on material within his or her Lexile range.
- Communicate with your child’s teacher(s) and school media specialist about his/her reading needs and accomplishments. They can explain how to use the Lexile scale to match your child to appropriate text.
- When a reading assignment proves too challenging for your child, use activities to help. For example, review the words and definitions from the glossary, and the review questions at the end of a chapter before your child reads the text. Afterwards, be sure to return to the glossary and review questions to make sure your child understood the material.
- Secondary students benefit from discussing assigned readings with family members. Try to read some of the same books and articles assigned to your students. The discussions will be enjoyable and enlightening for both you and your child.