

Unit 1 Independent Reading List

Suggestions for Independent Reading

This list, divided into the categories of **Literature** and **Nonfiction/Informational Text**, comprises titles related to the themes and content of the unit. For your independent reading, you can select from this wide array of titles, which have been chosen based on complexity and interest. You can also do your own research and select titles that intrigue you.

Unit 1: Stories of Change		
Literature		
Author	Title	Lexile
Ada, Alma Flor	<i>My Name Is Maria Isabel</i>	860L
Alexie, Sherman	<i>The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian</i>	600L
Avi	<i>The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle</i>	740L
Black, Holly	<i>Geektastic: Stories from the Nerd Herd</i>	760L
Bradbury, Ray	<i>I Sing the Body Electric</i>	N/A
Bradbury, Ray	<i>R is for Rocket</i>	N/A
Bunting, Eve	<i>One Green Apple</i>	450L
Crutcher, Chris	<i>Athletic Shorts: Six Short Stories</i>	1010L
Flake, Sharon	<i>The Skin I'm In</i>	670L
Guthrie, Peter	<i>Little Worlds: A Collection of Short Stories for the Middle School</i>	N/A
Hidier, Tanuja Desai	<i>Born Confused</i>	890L
Jimenez, Francisco	<i>La Mariposa</i>	750L
Kadohata, Cynthia	<i>Kira-Kira</i>	740L
Keyes, Daniel	<i>Flowers for Algernon</i>	910L
Levithan, David	<i>Friends: Stories About New Friends, Old Friends, And Unexpectedly True Friends</i>	930L
Lin, Grace	<i>Dumpling Days</i>	710L
Park, Linda Sue	<i>Project Mulberry</i>	690L
Philbrick, Rodman	<i>Freak the Mighty</i>	1000L
Philbrick, Rodman	<i>The Mostly True Adventures of Homer P. Figg</i>	950L
Ryan, Pam Muñoz	<i>Esperanza Rising</i>	750L
Soto, Gary	<i>Baseball in April and Other Stories</i>	830L
Spinelli, Jerry	<i>Maniac Magee</i>	820L
Taylor, Mildred	<i>Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry</i>	920L
Yang, Gene Luen	<i>American Born Chinese</i>	530L
Yep, Laurence	<i>Dragonwings</i>	870L

Nonfiction/Informational Text		
Author	Title	Lexile
Ahmedi, Farah and Tamin Ansary	The Story of My Life: An Afghan Girl on the Other Side of the Sky	850L
Jimenez, Francisco	The Circuit: Stories from the Life of a Migrant Child	880L
Myers, Walter Dean	Bad Boy: A Memoir	970L
Park, Linda Sue	<i>A Long Walk to Water: Based on a True Story</i>	720L
Paulsen, Gary	<i>Woodsong</i>	1090L
Pfetzter, Mark and Jack Galvin	<i>Within Reach: My Everest Story</i>	970L
Soto, Gary	<i>A Summer Life</i>	990L

Unit 2 Independent Reading List

Suggestions for Independent Reading

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Unit 2: The Power to Change		
Literature		
Author	Title	Lexile
Armstrong, William	<i>Souder</i>	900L
Creech, Sharon	<i>Hate That Cat</i>	N/A
Creech, Sharon	<i>Love That Dog</i>	1010L
Creech, Sharon	<i>Ruby Holler</i>	660L
Creech, Sharon	<i>The Wanderer</i>	830L
DiCamillo, Kate	<i>Because of Winn Dixie</i>	610L
DiCamillo, Kate	<i>The Tiger Rising</i>	520L
Farley, Walter	<i>The Black Stallion</i>	680L
Funke, Cornelia	<i>Dragon Rider</i>	710L
George, Jean Craighead	<i>Julie of the Wolves</i>	860L
Gipson, Fred	<i>Old Yeller</i>	910L
Grogan, John	<i>Marley: A Dog Like No Other</i>	760L
Guest, Jacqueline	<i>Hat Trick</i>	710L
Hiaasen, Carl	<i>Hoot</i>	760L
Kadohata, Cynthia	<i>Cracker! The Best Dog in Vietnam</i>	730L
Korman, Gordon	<i>No More Dead Dogs</i>	610L
London, Jack	<i>The Call of the Wild</i>	1080L
London, Jack	<i>White Fang</i>	650L
Morey, Walt	<i>Gentle Ben</i>	740L
Mowat, Farley	<i>Never Cry Wolf</i>	1330L
Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds	<i>Shiloh</i>	890L
Paulsen, Gary	<i>Guts</i>	1230L
Paulsen, Gary	<i>My Life in Dog Years</i>	1150L
Peterson, Shelley	<i>Sundancer</i>	N/A
Rawls, Wilson	<i>Where the Red Fern Grows</i>	790L
Ryan, Pam Munoz	<i>Paint the Wind</i>	780L
Sewell, Anna	<i>Black Beauty</i>	650L
Sherlock, Patti	<i>Letters from Wolfie</i>	760L
Smith, Roland	<i>Elephant Run</i>	750L
Starr, Arigon	<i>Super Indian</i> (Series of 2)	N/A
Wedekind, Annie	<i>A Horse of Her Own</i>	1040L

Nonfiction/Informational Text		
Author	Title	Lexile
Chin-Lee, Cynthia	<i>Akira to Zoltan: 26 Men Who Changed the World</i>	N/A
Chin-Lee, Cynthia	<i>Amelia to Zora: 26 Women Who Changed the World</i>	N/A
Goodall, Jane	<i>My Life with the Chimpanzees</i>	910L
Grandin, Temple and Catherine Johnson	<i>Animals in Translation</i>	1130L
Guzman, Lila and Rick	<i>Cesar Chavez: Fighting for Fairness</i>	N/A
Hall, MH	<i>King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table</i>	390L
Kehret, Peg	<i>Shelter Dogs: Amazing Stories of Adopted Strays</i>	940L
Lemke, Donald	<i>Investigating the Scientific Method with Max Axiom, Super Scientist</i>	760
Montgomery, Sy	<i>Temple Grandin: How the Girl Who Loved Cows Embraced Autism and Changed the World</i>	960L

Unit 3 Independent Reading List

Suggestions for Independent Reading

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Unit 3: Changing Perspectives		
Literature		
Author	Title	Lexile
Alvarez, Julia	<i>The Tia Lola Stories Series</i>	830L–850L
Applegate, Katherine	<i>Home of the Brave</i>	N/A
Ellis, Deborah	<i>Jakeman</i>	N/A
Fullerton, Alma	<i>Libertad</i>	N/A
Howe, James	<i>The Misfits</i>	960L
Kahn, Hena	<i>Night of the Moon</i>	780L
Khan, Rukhsana	<i>A New Life</i>	N/A
Krishnaswami, Uma	<i>The Grand Plan to Fix Everything</i>	770L
Na, An	<i>Wait for Me</i>	670L
Nye, Naomi Shihab	<i>19 Varieties of Gazelle: Poems of the Middle East</i>	970L
Smith, Greg Leitich	<i>Ninjas, Piranhas, and Galileo</i>	750L
Ursu, Anne	<i>Breadcrumbs</i>	720L
Nonfiction/Informational Text		
Author	Title	Lexile
Anderson, Judith	<i>Know the Facts About Personal Safety</i>	N/A
Dipiazza, Francesca Davis	<i>Friend Me: 600 Years of Social Networking in America</i>	1040L
Halls, Kelly Milner	<i>Saving the Baghdad Zoo: A True Story of Hope and Heroes</i>	N/A
Hoose, Phillip	<i>Claudette Colvin: Twice Toward Justice</i>	1000L
Lewis, Barbara	<i>The Kid's Guide to Service Projects: Over 500 Service Ideas for Young People Who Want to Make a Difference</i>	850L
Marrin, Albert	<i>Black Gold: The Story of Oil in Our Lives</i>	1070L
Norgren, Jill	<i>Belva Lockwood: Equal Rights Pioneer</i>	N/A
O'Brien, Anne Ibley and Perry Edmond O'Brien	<i>After Gandhi: One Hundred Years of Nonviolent Resistance</i>	1080L
Pollan, Michael	<i>The Omnivore's Dilemma: The Secrets Behind What You Eat (Young Readers Edition)</i>	930L
Rockliff, Mara	Get real: what kind of world are you buying?	890L
Schlosser, Eric	<i>Chew on This, Everything You Don't Want to Know About Fast Food</i>	1110L
Stearman, Kaye	<i>Taking Action Against Homelessness</i>	N/A
Warren, Andrea	<i>Orphan Train Rider: One Boy's True Story</i>	960L

Unit 4 Independent Reading List

Suggestions for Independent Reading

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Unit 4: The Final Act		
Literature		
Author	Title	Lexile
Allen, Laurie	<i>Sixty Comedy Duet Scenes for Teens: Real-Life Situations for Laughter</i>	N/A
Blackwood, Gary	<i>Shakespeare's Scribe</i>	870L
Detrick, Erin, editor	<i>Actor's Choice: Monologues for Teens</i>	N/A
Dickens, Charles	<i>Oliver Twist</i>	970L
Dumas, Alexandre	<i>The Count of Monte Cristo</i>	1080L
Kane, Bo	<i>Acting Scenes and Monologues for Young Teens</i>	N/A
Kipling, Rudyard	<i>Captains Courageous</i>	850L
Lamb, Mary and Charles	<i>Tales from Shakespeare</i>	1390L
Lewis, C.S	<i>The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe</i>	940L
London, Jack	<i>The Call of the Wild</i>	1080L
Pegasus Illustrated Shakespeare Stories	<i>The Comedy of Errors</i>	910L
Pizzarello, Jason, editor	<i>Actor's Choice: Scenes for Teens</i>	N/A
Rafter, Dan (adapted by)	<i>20,000 Leagues Under the Sea</i> (Graphic Novel)	N/A
Shelley, Mary	<i>Frankenstein</i>	810L
Smith, Betty	<i>A Tree Grows in Brooklyn</i>	810L
Stevenson, Robert Louis	<i>The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde</i>	1010L
Twain, Mark	<i>A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court</i>	1080L
Verne, Jules	<i>20,000 Leagues Under the Sea</i>	1030L
Wagner, Lloyd (adapted by)	<i>The Call of the Wild</i> (Graphic Novel)	N/A
Nonfiction/Informational Text		
Author	Title	Lexile
Ball, Jacqueline A.	<i>Windsor Castle: England's Royal Fortress</i>	680L
Barbara A. Somervill	<i>Actor (Cool Arts Careers)</i>	860L
Belli, Mary Lou and Lenney, Dinah	<i>Acting for Young Actors: Ultimate Teen Guide</i>	N/A
Carpenter, Angelica Shirley	<i>Lewis Carroll: Through the Looking Glass</i>	1080L
Prince, April Jones	<i>Who Was Mark Twain?</i>	910L
Stanley, Diane and Peter Vennema	<i>Bard of Avon: The Story of William Shakespeare</i>	1030L
Stanley, Diane and Peter Vennema	<i>Good Queen Bess: The Story of Elizabeth I of England</i>	1060L
Turnbull, Stephanie	<i>Acting Skills</i>	890L