

## **How Should Lexile Scores Be Used?**

The Lexile system is only a single tool which needs to be approached with reasonable expectations and applied with thoughtfulness. The inherent limitations of standardized testing, the complexities of the concept of “readability,” and the role students play in shaping their own experiences with reading all argue for caution in the use of Lexiles.

The following aspects of the Lexile system should be kept in mind:

1. Several key factors in reading difficulty are not reflected in Lexiles, so the same text will be experienced as “harder” or “easier” by different students.
2. Lexiles do not represent the appropriateness of the themes or specific content given the age and maturity of the reader.
3. The SRI generates a Lexile score for students.

Such tests are just one way to measure a student’s reading ability, and it is not a precise measurement. There is a potential error band of plus or minus 50 Lexile points in the Lexile system. Clearly, Lexiles should be approached as approximations rather than specific ratings.

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