

Unit 1 Independent Reading List

Suggestions for Independent Reading

The Independent Reading Lists for each unit are divided into the categories of Literature and Nonfiction/Informational Text. Each list comprises titles related to the theme 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 for other titles that captivate your interest and relate to the unit of study.

Unit 1: Cultural Conversations		
Literature		
Author	Title	Lexile
Bernier-Grand, Carmen T.	<i>Frida: Viva la Vida! Long Live Life!</i>	750L
Garcia, Cristina	<i>The Aguero Sisters</i>	1000L
Jin, Ha	<i>Ocean of Words Army Stories</i>	790L
McCunn, Ruthanne Lum	<i>Thousand Pieces of Gold</i>	940L
Porter, Connie	<i>Imani All Mine</i>	580L
Walker, Alice	<i>Meridian</i>	1010L
Whitaker, Alecia	<i>Wildflower</i>	830L
Wright, Richard	<i>Black Boy</i>	950L
Smith, Zadie	<i>White Teeth</i>	960L
Nonfiction/Informational Text		
Author	Title	Lexile
Beal, Merrill D.	<i>"I Will Fight No More Forever": Chief Joseph and the Nez Perce War</i>	1130L
Carrick Hill, Laban	<i>America Dreaming: How Youth Changed America in the 60's</i>	1190L
Cunxin, Li	<i>Mao's Last Dancer</i>	810L
Le Guin, Ursula K.	<i>Always Coming Home</i>	N/A
Nabhan, Gary Paul	<i>Why Some Like It Hot: Food, Genes, and Cultural Diversity</i>	N/A
Nerburn, Kent	<i>Chief Joseph & the Flight of the Nez Perce: The Untold Story of an American Tragedy</i>	N/A
Santiago, Esmeralda	<i>When I Was Puerto Rican: A Memoir</i>	1029L
Sherr, Lynn	<i>Failure Is Impossible: Susan B. Anthony in Her Own Words</i>	N/A
Stone, Tanya Lee	<i>The Good, the Bad, and the Barbie: A Doll's History and Her Impact on Us</i>	1120L
Tobin, Jacqueline L. & Dobard, Raymond G.	<i>Hidden in Plain View: A Secret Story of Quilts and the Underground Railroad</i>	N/A
Ward, Geoffrey C. & Burns, Ken	<i>Not for Ourselves Alone: The Story of Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony</i>	N/A

Unit 2 Independent Reading List

Unit 2: Cultural Perspectives		
Literature		
Author	Title	Lexile
Aronson, Marc & Budhos, Marina	<i>Sugar Changed the World</i>	1130L
Achebe, Chinua	<i>Arrow of God</i>	880L
Abdel-Fattah, Randa	<i>Does My Head Look Big in This?</i>	850L
Alexie, Sherman	<i>The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian</i>	600L
Alvarez, Julia	<i>How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents</i>	950L
Anaya, Rudolfo	<i>Bless Me, Ultima</i>	840L
Barakat, Ibtisam	<i>Tasting the Sky</i>	870L
Buck, Pearl S.	<i>The Good Earth</i>	1530L
Carmi, Daniella	<i>Samir and Yonatan</i>	810L
Díaz, Junot	<i>The Brief and Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao</i>	1010L
Esquivel, Laura	<i>Like Water for Chocolate</i>	1030L
Ferris, Timothy	<i>The Whole Shebang</i>	N/A
Jin, Ha	<i>Waiting</i>	N/A
Hudson, Jan	<i>Sweetgrass</i>	640L
Kidd, Sue Monk	<i>The Secret Life of Bees</i>	840L
Na, An	<i>The Fold</i>	700L
Oates, Joyce Carol	<i>Big Mouth and Ugly Girl</i>	720L
Park, Linda Sue	<i>A Single Shard</i>	920L
Tan, Amy	<i>The Bonesetter's Daughter</i>	800L
Nonfiction/Informational Text		
Author	Title	Lexile
Alvarez, Julia	<i>Something to Declare</i>	1100L
Coates, Ta-Nehisi	<i>Between the World and Me</i>	1090L
Kurlansky, Mark	<i>The Story of Salt</i>	1100L
Laure, Jason et al.	<i>South Africa</i>	1020L
O'Brien, Anne Silby & O'Brien, Perry Edmond	<i>After Gandhi: One Hundred Years of Nonviolent Resistance</i>	1080L
Pham, Andrew X.	<i>Catfish and Mandala: A Two-Wheeled Voyage Through the Landscape and Memory of Vietnam</i>	N/A
Reef, Catherine	<i>Frida & Diego: Art, Love, Life</i>	1080L
Seierstad, Asne	<i>The Bookseller of Kabul</i>	N/A
Sherr, Lynn	<i>America the Beautiful: The Stirring True Story Behind Our Nation's Favorite Song</i>	1210L
Shetterly, Robert	<i>Americans Who Tell the Truth</i>	N/A
Thoreau, Henry David	<i>The Higher Law: Thoreau on Civil Disobedience and Reform</i>	N/A
Yousafzai, Malala	<i>I Am Malala</i>	1000L

Unit 3 Independent Reading List

Unit 3: Cultures in Conflict		
Literature		
Author	Title	Lexile
Abani, Chris	<i>Graceland</i>	N/A
Achebe, Chinua	<i>Anthills of the Savannah</i>	1030L
Alvarez, Julia	<i>In the Time of the Butterflies</i>	910L
Cheng, Nien	<i>Life and Death in Shanghai</i>	N/A
Coetzee, J. M.	<i>Life and Times of Michael K</i>	940L
Dayrell, Elphinstone	<i>The King And The Ju Ju Tree: Forty Amazing Folk Tales from Southern Nigeria</i>	N/A
Eggers, Dave	<i>What Is the What?</i>	N/A
Emecheta, Buchi	<i>The Bride Price</i>	1060L
Gordimer, Nadine	<i>Jump and Other Stories</i>	1030L
Jhabvala, Ruth Praver	<i>Heat and Dust</i>	N/A
Kincaid, Jamaica	<i>A Small Place</i>	N/A
Lahiri, Jhumpa	<i>The Namesake</i>	1210L
Lake, Nick	<i>In Darkness</i>	800L
Naidoo, Beverley	<i>Chain of Fire</i>	910L
Temple, Frances	<i>Taste of Salt: A Story of Modern Haiti</i>	650L
Winter, Jeanette	<i>The Librarian of Basra</i>	640L
Nonfiction/Informational Text		
Author	Title	Lexile
Ali, Nujood & Minoui, Delphine	<i>I Am Nujood: Age 10 and Divorced</i>	N/A
al-Windawi, Thura	<i>Thura's Diary: My Life in Wartime Iraq</i>	990L
Bhutto, Benazir	<i>Daughter of Destiny: An Autobiography</i>	N/A
Freedman, Russell	<i>Because They Marched: The People's Campaign for Voting Rights That Changed America</i>	1160L
Freedman, Russell	<i>We Will Not Be Silent: The White Rose Student Resistance Movement That Defied Adolf Hitler</i>	630L
Hogan, Linda	<i>The Woman Who Watches Over the World: A Native Memoir</i>	N/A

Unit 4 Independent Reading List

Unit 4: Dramatic Justice		
Literature		
Author	Title	Lexile
Aristophanes	<i>The Birds</i>	NP
Doctorow, Cory	<i>Little Brother</i>	N/A
Golding, William	<i>Lord of the Flies</i>	770L
Hansberry, Lorraine	<i>A Raisin in the Sun</i>	NP
Kaufman, Moisés	<i>The Laramie Project</i>	N/A
Mann, Abby	<i>Judgment at Nuremberg: A Play</i>	N/A
Miller, Frank	<i>The Dark Knight</i>	N/A
Morrison, Toni	<i>The Bluest Eye</i>	920L
Wein, Elizabeth	<i>Code Name Verity</i>	1020L
Nonfiction/Informational Text		
Author	Title	Lexile
Bryson, Bill	<i>Notes from a Small Island</i>	N/A
Hakim, Joy	<i>The Story of Science: Aristotle Leads the Way</i>	950L
McKissack, Patricia C. & McKissack, Fredrick L.	<i>Young, Black, and Determined: A Biography of Lorraine Hansberry</i>	1160L
Mlodinow, Leonard	<i>Euclid's Window: The Story of Geometry from Parallel Lines to Hyperspace</i>	N/A
Sotomayor, Sonia	<i>My Beloved World</i>	N/A

Unit 5 Independent Reading List

Unit 5: Building Cultural Bridges		
Literature		
Author	Title	Lexile
Alvarez, Julia	<i>Before We Were Free</i>	890L
Beatty, Patricia	<i>Lupita Mañana</i>	760L
Choi, Sook Nyul	<i>Gathering of Pearls</i>	N/A
Danticat, Edwidge	<i>Behind the Mountains</i>	940L
Jen, Gish	<i>Typical American</i>	N/A
Klass, David	<i>California Blue</i>	820L
Knowles, John	<i>A Separate Peace</i>	1110L
Stockett, Kathryn	<i>The Help</i>	930L
Nonfiction/Informational Text		
Author	Title	Lexile
Gonick, Larry & Alice Outwater	<i>Cartoon Guide to the Environment</i>	N/A
Hickam, Jr., Homer H.	<i>Rocket Boys</i>	N/A
Jacquet, Luc & Maison, Jerome	<i>March of the Penguins</i>	N/A
Kurlansky, Mark	<i>World Without Fish</i>	1230L
Laskin, David	<i>Braving the Elements</i>	N/A
Pollan, Michael	<i>The Omnivore's Dilemma</i>	930L
Silverstein, Ken	<i>The Radioactive Boy Scout: The Frightening True Story of a Whiz Kid and His Homemade Nuclear Reactor</i>	1300L
Simon, Seymour	<i>Penguins</i>	1030L
Stevens, William K.	<i>Change in the Weather: People, Weather, and the Science of Climate Change</i>	N/A
Stewart, Brent S., Clapham, Phillip J., & Powell, James A.	<i>National Audubon Society Guide to Marine Mammals of the World</i>	N/A

Suggested Documentary Films

Director	Documentary Film Title	Release Year
Balog, James, National Geographic	<i>Chasing Ice</i>	2012
Cheney, Ian	<i>PBS: The City Dark</i>	2012
Chang, Yung	<i>PBS: Up the Yangtze</i>	2008
Cowperthwaite, Gabriela	<i>Black Fish</i>	2013
Gunn Carr, Drury and Doug Hawes-Davis	<i>PBS: Libby, Montana</i>	2007
Jaquet, Luc	<i>March of the Penguins</i>	2005