

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: The American Dream		
Literature		
Author	Title	Lexile
Avi	<i>Nothing but the Truth</i>	N/A
Beatty, Patricia	<i>Lupita Mañana</i>	760L
Erdrich, Louise	<i>Love Medicine</i>	780L
Hamil, Pete	<i>Snow in August</i>	N/A
Jen, Gish	<i>Who's Irish?</i>	840L
Muñoz Ryan, Pam	<i>Esperanza Rising</i>	750L
Norman Maclean	<i>A River Runs Through It</i>	1160L
Restrepo, Bettina	<i>Illegal</i>	540L
Smith, Betty	<i>A Tree Grows in Brooklyn</i>	810L
Steinbeck, John	<i>Of Mice and Men</i>	630L
Wells, Ken	<i>Meely LaBauve</i>	N/A
Nonfiction/Informational Text		
Author	Title	Lexile
Bissinger, H.G.	<i>Friday Night Lights: A Town, a Team, and a Dream</i>	1220L
Dillard, Annie	<i>An American Childhood</i>	1040L
Ehrenreich, Barbara	<i>Nickel and Dimed</i>	1340L
Gladwell, Malcolm	<i>Outliers: The Story of Success</i>	1080L
Haley, Alex and Malcolm X	<i>The Autobiography of Malcolm X: As Told to Alex Haley</i>	1120L
Haskins, James and Kathleen Benson	<i>Space Challenger: The Story of Guion Bluford</i>	980L
Hillenbrand, Laura	<i>Seabiscuit: An American Legend</i>	990L
Hillenbrand, Laura	<i>Unbroken</i>	1010L
Jemison, Mae	<i>Find Where the Wind Goes: Moments from My Life</i>	960L
Junger, Sebastian	<i>The Perfect Storm: A True Story of Men Against the Sea</i>	1140L
Kurlansky, Mark	<i>Frozen in Time</i>	1220L
Levitt, Steven D. and Stephen J. Dubner	<i>Freakonomics: A Rogue Economist Explores the Hidden Side of Everything</i>	N/A
McBride, James	<i>The Color of Water: A Black Man's Tribute to His White Mother</i>	1240L
Nasar, Sylvia	<i>A Beautiful Mind</i>	N/A
Vance, Ashlee	<i>Elon Musk</i>	1200L
Wolff, Tobias	<i>This Boy's Life</i>	N/A

Unit 2 Independent Reading List

Unit 2: The Power of Persuasion		
Literature		
Author	Title	Lexile
Alcott, Louisa May	<i>Little Women</i>	750L
Forbes, Esther	<i>Johnny Tremain</i>	840L
Kingsolver, Barbara	<i>Animal Dreams</i>	790L
Lawrence, Jerome and Robert E. Lee	<i>Inherit the Wind</i>	850L
Myers, Anna	<i>Assassin</i>	790L
O'Brien, Tim	<i>The Things They Carried</i>	880L
Paterson, Katherine	<i>Lyddie</i>	860L
Petry, Ann	<i>Tituba of Salem Village</i>	840L
Tan, Amy	<i>The Joy Luck Club</i>	930L
Vonnegut, Kurt	<i>Slaughterhouse-Five</i>	850L
Nonfiction/Informational Text		
Author	Title	Lexile
Alexander, Michelle	<i>The New Jim Crow</i>	1450L
Arbinger Institute	<i>The Anatomy of Peace: Resolving the Heart of Conflict</i>	N/A
Benoit, Peter	<i>The Salem Witch Trials</i>	1020L
Daley, James (Editor)	<i>Great Speeches by African Americans</i>	N/A
Klebold, Sue	<i>A Mother's Reckoning: Living in the Aftermath of a Tragedy</i>	N/A
Montefiore, Simon Sebag (Editor)	<i>Speeches That Changed the World</i>	N/A
Patterson, Kerry	<i>Crucial Conversations</i>	N/A
Safire, William (Editor)	<i>Lend Me Your Ears: Great Speeches in History</i>	N/A
Schiff, Stacy	<i>The Witches: Salem, 1692</i>	N/A
Stevenson, Bryan	<i>Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption</i>	1130L
Widmer, Ted (Editor)	<i>American Speeches: Political Oratory from Patrick Henry to Barak Obama</i>	N/A

Unit 3 Independent Reading List

Unit 3: American Forums: The Marketplace of Ideas		
Literature		
Author	Title	Lexile
Caldwell, Ian and Dustin Thomason	<i>The Rule of Four</i>	N/A
Miller, Jennifer	<i>The Year of the Gadfly</i>	N/A
Stockett, Kathryn	<i>The Help</i>	930L
Waugh, Evelyn	<i>Scoop</i>	830L
Nonfiction/Informational Text		
Author	Title	Lexile
Amar, Akhil Reed	<i>American's Constitution: A Biography</i>	1490L
Anderson, Bonnie M.	<i>News Flash</i>	N/A
Capote, Truman	<i>In Cold Blood</i>	1040L
Dickers, Scott (Editor)	<i>The Onion Presents: Our Dumb Century</i>	N/A
Herman, Edwards S. and Noam Chomsky	<i>Manufacturing Consent: The Political Economy of the Mass Media</i>	N/A
McCullough, David	<i>Our White House: Looking In, Looking Out</i>	1110L
Parks, Gordon	<i>A Choice of Weapons</i>	N/A
Riis, Jacob	<i>How the Other Half Lives</i>	N/A
Rudel, Anthony	<i>Hello Everybody!: The Dawn of American Radio</i>	N/A
Schlosser, Eric	<i>Fast Food Nation: The Dark Side of the All-American Meal</i>	1240L
Sedaris, David	<i>Me Talk Pretty One Day</i>	N/A
Suggested Media		
Publication	Format	
<i>BBC News</i>	Television/Website	
<i>BBC World Service</i>	Radio/Website	
<i>The Christian Science Monitor</i>	Magazine/Website	
<i>The Dallas Morning News</i>	Newspaper/Website	
<i>Forbes</i>	Magazine/Website	
<i>Los Angeles Times</i>	Newspaper/Website	
<i>The New York Times</i>	Newspaper/Website	
<i>Newsweek</i>	Magazine/Website	
<i>Slate</i>	Online Magazine	
<i>USA Today</i>	Newspaper/Website	
<i>The Washington Post</i>	Newspaper/Website	

Unit 4 Independent Reading List

Unit 4: The Pursuit of Happiness		
Literature		
Author	Title	Lexile
Camus, Albert	<i>The Stranger</i>	880L
Chopin, Kate	<i>The Awakening</i>	960L
Dorris, Michael	<i>A Yellow Raft in Blue Water</i>	980L
Dubus, Andre III	<i>House of Sand and Fog</i>	1170L
Harbach, Chad	<i>The Art of Fielding</i>	N/A
Hemingway, Ernest	<i>The Old Man and the Sea</i>	940L
Lawson, Julie	<i>Destination Gold!</i>	630L
Wolf, Allan	<i>New Found Land: Lewis and Clark's Voyage of Discovery</i>	850L
Nonfiction/Informational Text		
Author	Title	Lexile
Alexander, Caroline	<i>The Endurance: Shackleton's Legendary Antarctic Expedition</i>	1180L
Bilas, Jay	<i>Toughness: Developing True Strength On and Off the Court</i>	N/A
Coates, Ta-Nehisi	<i>Between the World and Me</i>	1090L
Crutcher, Chris	<i>King of the Mild Frontier: An Ill-Advised Autobiography</i>	1180L
Doeden, Matt	<i>Can You Survive the Wilderness?</i>	680L
Emerson, Ralph Waldo	<i>The Complete Essays</i>	1100L
Henson, Matthew A.	<i>Matthew A. Henson's Historic Arctic Journey: The Classic Account of One of the World's Greatest Black Explorers</i>	1300L
King, Martin Luther, Jr.	<i>A Time to Break Silence: The Essential Works of Martin Luther King, Jr., for Students</i>	N/A
Northup, Solomon	<i>12 Years a Slave</i>	1200L
Quindlen, Anna	<i>A Short Guide to a Happy Life</i>	N/A
Rilke, Rainer Maria	<i>Letters to a Young Poet</i>	N/A
Thoreau, Henry David	<i>Civil Disobedience and Other Essays</i>	N/A

Unit 5 Independent Reading List

Unit 5: An American Journey		
Literature		
Author	Title	Lexile
Bolden, Tonya	<i>Wake Up Our Souls</i>	1190L
Brown, Daniel James	<i>The Boys in the Boat</i>	1000L
Curtis, Christopher Paul	<i>The Watsons Go to Birmingham</i>	1000L
Denenberg, Barry	<i>The Journal of Ben Uchida</i>	850L
Guy, Rosa	<i>The Friends</i>	730L
Larson, Erik	<i>The Devil in White City</i>	1170L
Mosley, Walter	<i>47</i>	860L
Wright, Richard	<i>Native Son</i>	700L
Nonfiction/Informational Text		
Author	Title	Lexile
Cose, Ellis	<i>The End of Anger: A New Generation's Take on Race and Rage</i>	N/A
Douglass, Frederick	<i>Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass: An American Slave</i>	920L
Dwyer, Jim	<i>102 Minutes: The Unforgettable Story of the Fight to Survive Inside the Twin Towers</i>	N/A
Houston, Jeanne Wakatsuki and James D. Houston	<i>Farewell to Manzanar</i>	1040L
McPhee, John	<i>Assembling California</i>	N/A
Moody, Anne	<i>Coming of Age in Mississippi</i>	870L
Oppenheimer, Joanne	<i>Dear Miss Breed</i>	1040L
Philbrick, Nathaniel	<i>In the Heart of the Sea: The Tragedy of the Whaleship Essex</i>	1210L
Uchida, Yoshiko	<i>Desert Exile: The Uprooting of a Japanese American Family</i>	1280L