



Sample Titles of Complex Texts by Grade Band

There is no frigate like a book
To take us lands away,
Nor any coursers like a page
Of prancing poetry.
This traverse may the poorest take
Without oppress of toll;
How frugal is the chariot
That bears a human soul!

–Emily Dickinson

Employ your time in improving yourself by other men's writings so that you shall come easily by what others have labored hard for. – Socrates

This sample list of texts includes selections ranging from the Classical Period of ancient Greece and Rome to contemporary texts, representing a full spectrum of genres: classic literature, folktales, poetry, satire, memoirs, essays, speeches, plays, narratives, treatises, founding documents, and histories.

The reading and writing standards have been constructed so that the sample texts serve as mentor texts for students, demonstrating exemplar writing. In many instances, they have also been selected to provide students with background knowledge in topics covered by other content areas, helping students to build the vocabulary and schema that will help them be successful in all of their academic endeavors.

These texts are by authors whose works comprise a rich literary tradition, a tradition with which all students should become familiar. The list should serve as a guide for teachers, curriculum developers, and test makers as they prepare their instructional units and materials for Florida students. It is not intended to be exhaustive but to serve as a foundation for educators when selecting additional rich and meaningful texts.

This sample book list is organized into grades for text complexity guidance. The texts listed here have been selected based on both quantitative and qualitative measures. There are instances in which a student-centered consideration would indicate that a text be used at a lower or higher grade level than indicated here. Further, as students become independent readers—and especially when they are intrigued with a topic—they are often eager and ready to read texts that may be listed here at a higher grade level. Educators should encourage students to wrestle with such complex texts—with proper scaffolding—when they deem it appropriate.



Kindergarten

Title	Author
"At the Seaside"	Stevenson, Robert Louis
"The Clock" - a Mother Goose Poem	Unknown
<i>A Mother for Choco</i>	Kasza, Keiko
<i>Brown Bear, Brown Bear</i>	Martin Jr., Bill
<i>Chicka Chicka Boom Boom</i>	Martin, Bill and Archambault, John
<i>Corduroy</i>	Freeman, Don
<i>Curious George</i>	Rey, H.A
<i>Hop on Pop</i>	Dr. Seuss
<i>I am Jackie Robinson</i>	Meltzer, Brad
<i>Mission to Space</i>	Herrington, John
<i>Now We Are Six</i>	Milne, A.A.
<i>On a Farm</i>	Andrews, Alexa
<i>Red is Best</i>	Stinson, Kathy
<i>Rumble in the Jungle</i>	Andreae, Giles
<i>Swimmy</i>	Lionni, Leo
<i>The Bald Eagle</i>	Pearl, Norman
<i>The Carrot Seed</i>	Krauss, Ruth and Crockett Johnson
<i>The Sky Painter: Louis Guertes, Bird Artist</i>	Engle, Margarita
<i>The Very First Americans</i>	Ashrose, Cara
<i>Two Ways to Count to Ten: A Liberian Folktale</i>	Dee, Ruby
<i>Wandering Whale Sharks</i>	Shingu, Susumu
<i>We Have a Little Garden</i>	Potter, Beatrix
<i>Where the Wild Things Are</i>	Sendak, Maurice

*1st Grade*

Title	Author
"Daffodowndilly"	Milne, A.A.
"Eletelephony"	Richards, Laura
<i>A Picture Book of Benjamin Franklin</i>	Adler, David
<i>Chickens Don't Fly</i>	Disiena, Laura Lyn
<i>Clifford the Big Red Dog</i>	Bridwell, Norman
<i>Danny and the Dinosaur</i>	Hoff, Syd
<i>Drum Dream Girl</i>	Engle, Margarita
<i>Fantastic Undersea Life of Jacques Cousteau</i>	Yaccarino, Dan
<i>From Seed to Pumpkin</i>	Pfeffer, Wendy and James Graham
<i>How People Learned to Fly</i>	Hodgkins, Fran
<i>I Am Enough</i>	Byers, Grace
<i>I am Helen Keller</i>	Meltzer, Brad
<i>I Wonder</i>	Hoban, Tana
<i>Keep a Poem in Your Pocket</i>	Schenk de Regniers, Beatrice
<i>Madeline</i>	Bemelmans, Ludwig
<i>My Name is Celia/Me llamo Celia: The Life of Celia Cruz/la vida de Celia Cruz</i>	Brown, Monica
<i>Now & Ben: The Modern Inventions of Benjamin Franklin</i>	Barretta, Gene
<i>Police Officers</i>	Bourgeois, Paulette
<i>Put Me in the Zoo</i>	Lopshire, Robert
<i>The Slug</i>	Gravel, Elise
<i>The Tale of Peter Rabbit</i>	Potter, Beatrix
<i>The Three Little Pigs</i>	Halliwell-Phillipps, James
<i>The Tortoise and the Hare</i>	Aesop
<i>The Ugly Duckling</i>	Andersen, Hans Christian
<i>The Velveteen Rabbit</i>	Williams, Margery
<i>The White House</i>	Douglas, Lloyd
<i>Tooth By Tooth: Comparing Fangs, Tusks, and Chompers</i>	Levine, Sara



2nd Grade

Title	Author
“Gathering Leaves”	Frost, Robert
“The Crocodile”	Carroll, Lewis
“The Fieldmouse”	Alexander, Cecil Frances
“The Swing”	Stevenson, Robert Louis
<i>A More Perfect Union: The Story of Our Constitution</i>	Maestro, Betsy
<i>Bears on Hemlock Mountain</i>	Dalgliesh, Alice
<i>Bee Dance</i>	Chrustowski, Rick
<i>Eleanor</i>	Cooney, Barbara
<i>Father of the Constitution: A Story about James Madison</i>	Mitchell, Barbara
<i>Four Famished Foxes and Fosdyke</i>	Duncan, Pamela
<i>Give Bees a Chance</i>	Barton, Bethany
<i>In a Pickle and other Funny Idioms</i>	Terban, Marvin
<i>Living or Nonliving?</i>	Hicks, Kelli
<i>Mango, Abuela, and Me</i>	Medina, Meg
<i>One Morning in Maine</i>	McCloskey, Robert
<i>Seven Blind Mice</i>	Young, Ed
<i>Susan B. Anthony: Fighter for Freedom and Equality</i>	Slade, Suzanne
<i>The Coastal Dune Drama: Bob, the Gopher Tortoise</i>	Nash, Katherine Seeds
<i>The Congress of the United States</i>	Taylor-Butler, Christine
<i>The Gingerbread Man</i>	Aylesworth, Jim
<i>The Patchwork Quilt</i>	Flournoy, Valerie
<i>The Runaway Piggy</i>	Luna, James
<i>Vote!</i>	Christelow, Eileen
<i>Wanted Dead or Alive: The True Story of Harriet Tubman</i>	McGovern, Ann
<i>We the Kids: The Preamble of the Constitution of the United States</i>	Catrow, David
<i>Winnie the Pooh</i>	Milne, A.A.



3rd Grade

Title	Author
“My Doggy Ate My Essay”	Sardelli, Darren
“There was an Old Man with a Flute”	Lear, Edward
“Toward Those Short Trees”	Shiki, Masaoka
Tula [“Books are Door-shaped”]	Engle, Margarita
<i>Abraham Lincoln: A Life of Honesty</i>	Leslie, Tonya
<i>Charlotte’s Web</i>	White, E.B.
<i>Flight</i>	Burleigh, Robert
<i>Frederick Douglass Fights for Freedom</i>	Davidson, Margaret
<i>Honest Abe Lincoln</i>	Adler, David A.
<i>If You Traveled on the Underground Railroad</i>	Levine, Ellen
<i>Matilda</i>	Dahl, Roald
<i>Miracle on 133rd Street</i>	Manzano, Sonia
<i>Moonshot: The Flight of Apollo 11</i>	Floca, Brian
<i>Pablo Neruda: Poet of the People</i>	Brown, Monica
<i>Pippi Longstocking</i>	Lindgren, Astrid
<i>Revolutionary Friends: General George Washington and the Marquis de Lafayette</i>	Castrovilla, Selene
<i>Rosa Parks</i>	Greenfield, Eloise
<i>Sarah, Plain and Tall</i>	MacLachlan, Patricia
<i>Stuart Little</i>	White, E.B.
<i>The Boxcar Children</i>	Warner, Gertrude Chandler
<i>The Children’s Book of Virtues</i>	Bennett, William
<i>The Little Prince</i>	de Saint-Exupery, Antoine
<i>The Real McCoy: The Life of an African-American Inventor</i>	Towle, Wendy
<i>The Whipping Boy</i>	Fleischman, Sid
<i>The Wonderful Wizard of Oz</i>	Baum, Frank
<i>To the Moon and Back</i>	Aldrin, Buzz
<i>Who was Betsy Ross?</i>	Buckley, James Jr.



4th Grade

Title	Author
“Fish Cheeks”	Tan, Amy
“Mother Doesn't Want a Dog”	Viorst, Judith
<i>Aaron and Alexander: The Most Famous Duel in American History</i>	Brown, Don
<i>Carry on, Mr. Bowditch</i>	Latham, Jean Lee
<i>Casey at the Bat</i>	Thayer, Ernest Lawrence
<i>Chester Nez and the Unbreakable Code: A Navajo Code Talker's Story</i>	Bruchac, Joseph
<i>Esperanza Rising</i>	Ryan, Pam Muñoz
<i>Florida</i>	Orr, Tamra
<i>Fort Mose: And the Story of the Man Who Built the First Free Black Settlement in Colonial America</i>	Turner, Glennette Tilley
<i>Halfway Down</i>	Milne, A.A.
<i>Homer Price</i>	McCloskey, Robert
<i>Johnny Tremain</i>	Forbes, Esther
<i>Little House on the Prairie</i>	Wilder, Laura Ingalls
<i>On the Wings of Heroes</i>	Peck, Richard
<i>Promises to Keep: How Jackie Robinson Changed America</i>	Robinson, Sharon
<i>Reaching for the Moon</i>	Aldrin, Buzz
<i>Tales of the Odyssey (series)</i>	Osborne, Mary Pope
<i>The Castle in the Attic</i>	Winthrop, Elizabeth
<i>The Declaration of Independence</i>	Landau, Elaine
<i>The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe</i>	Lewis, C.S.
<i>The Story of Science: Aristotle Leads The Way</i>	Hakim, Joy
<i>The Wolf's Story</i>	Forward, Toby
<i>To Catch a Fish</i>	Greenfield, Eloise
<i>Toliver's Secret</i>	Brady, Esther Wood
<i>Where the Red Fern Grows</i>	Rawls, Wilson
<i>Where Was Patrick Henry on the 29th of May?</i>	Fritz, Jean
<i>Who Would Win? (series)</i>	Pallotta, Jerry
<i>William Shakespeare and the Globe</i>	Aliki



5th Grade

Title	Author
"I, Too"	Hughes, Langston
"If"	Kipling, Rudyard
"Paul Revere's Ride"	Longfellow, Henry Wadsworth
"The Road Not Taken"	Frost, Robert
<i>Abuelita's Heart</i>	Cordova, Amy
<i>Anne of Green Gables</i>	Montgomery, L.M.
<i>Call it Courage</i>	Sperry, Armstrong
<i>Call Me Maria</i>	Cofer, Judith Ortiz
<i>Chasing Vermeer</i>	Balliett, Blue
<i>City of Ember</i>	DuPrau, Jeanne
<i>Farewell to Manzanar</i>	Houston, Jeanne Wakatsuki and Houston, James D.
<i>Five Children and It</i>	Nesbit, Edith
<i>From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler</i>	Konigsburg, E.L.
<i>Hidden Figures</i>	Shetterly, Margot
<i>Hurricanes: Earth's Mightiest Storms</i>	Lauber, Patricia
<i>I am Malala</i>	Yousafzai, Malala
<i>Island of the Blue Dolphins</i>	O'Dell, Scott
<i>My Librarian is a Camel: How Books Are Brought to Children Around the World</i>	Ruurs, Margriet
<i>Shh! We're Writing the Constitution</i>	Fritz, Jean
<i>The Secret Garden</i>	Burnett, Frances Hodgson
<i>The Shakespeare Stealer</i>	Blackwood, Gary
<i>The Trail of Tears</i>	Bruchac, Joseph
<i>The Watsons Go to Birmingham</i>	Curtis, Christopher Paul
<i>They Called Her Molly Pitcher</i>	Rockwell, Anne
<i>Thurgood Marshall and the Supreme Court</i>	Kent, Deborah
<i>Volcano: Eruption and Healing of St. Helens</i>	Lauber, Patricia
<i>We the People: The Constitution of the United States of America</i>	Spier, Peter
<i>Written in Bone: Buried Lives of Jamestown and Colonial Maryland</i>	Walker, Sally