

Benchmark Advance 2026 Anchor Texts and Poetry — Grade 2

Grade	Unit	Unit Topic	Week	Type	Title	Author	Previously Published Author (Y/N)	Lexile Level	Genre	Race, Ethnicity, Topics, and Cultural Groups Represented
2	1	Plants and Animals	1	Short Read (Anchor Text)	Emperor Penguin Habitat	Laura Charleston	Y	580L	Informational Science	This informational text is about emperor penguins' Antarctic habitat, and it has no human characters or images.
2	1	Plants and Animals	1	Short Read (Anchor Text)	Postcards from Alex	Antonio Martinez	Y	580L	Fantasy	This epistolary fiction text is free of ethnic, racial, cultural, and gender stereotypes. The characters are All animals. An armadillo named Alex samples various habitats in Chile before deciding that his own rain forest home is the best for him.
2	1	Plants and Animals	2	Extended Read (Anchor Text)	Habitats Around the World	Thea Feldman	Y	550L	Informational Science	The informational text describes different habitats around the world and the animals that live in those areas, including grasslands, Canada, rain forests, and coral reefs. The text is free of ethnic, racial, cultural, and gender stereotypes.
2	1	Plants and Animals	3	Extended Read (Anchor Text)	Filiberto in the Valley	Alex Branger	Y	570L	Fantasy	Text story is about a male character named Carlitos of Latino/Hispanic descent and his pet domesticated mouse Filiberto. Carlitors and Filiberto explore the countryside on horseback and have adventures. The story is free of ethnic, racial, cultural, and gender stereotypes.
2	1	Plants and Animals	3	Poem	The Bat	Theodore Roethke	Y	NP	Narrative Poem	The whimsical poem is about bats. The children in the accompanying illustration are white. The poem is free of ethnic, racial, cultural, and gender stereotypes.
2	2	Characters Facing Challenges	1	Short Read (Anchor Text)	The Foolish Milkmaid	Aesop	Y	520L	Folktales	The illustrations show a young White woman and other bystanding White characters. The fable is free of any overt ethnic, racial, cultural, and gender stereotypes. The traditional European fable provides students and teachers with an opportunity to examine gender stereotypes in literature.
2	2	Characters Facing Challenges	1	Short Read (Anchor Text)	The Daydreaming Sprinter	Charles R. Smith Jr.	Y	660L	Realistic Fiction	Like the author, the story's main character is an African American who runs on his school trackteam in this modern retelling of "The Foolish Milkmaid." Other characters in the story are of mixed genders, races, and ethnicities.
2	2	Characters Facing Challenges	1	Extended Read (Anchor Text)	Yeh-Shen	Yuanyuan Gu	N	660L	Folktale	This text is a traditional retelling of a chinese folktale and is free of gender, racial, or cultrural stereotypes.
2	2	Characters Facing Challenges	3	Extended Read (Anchor Text)	Great Girl's Contest	Mattie Harper	Y	540L	Realistic Fiction	This text is a contemporary Native American retelling of the Cinderella story. escent and is free from racial, linguistic, and gender stereotypes. The characters are contemporary native american with illustrations by Ojibwe, the tribe depicted.
2	2	Characters Facing Challenges	3	Poem	Since Hanna Moved Away	Judith Viorst	Y	NP	Narrative Poem	This poem features two white characters and is free of ethnic, racial, cultural, and gender stereotypes.
2	3	Government at Work	1	Short Read (Anchor Text)	Smoke Jumpers	Matt Bander	N	650L	Informational Social Studies	This informational text about the brave smoke jumpers who fight wildfires is devoid of gender, racial, or cultrural stereotypes.
2	3	Government at Work	1	Short Read (Anchor Text)	Can You Sew a Flag, Betsy Ross?	Cindy Peattie	Y	560L	Realistic Fiction	This Realistic Fiction story depicts George Washington's seeking help with the nations first flag from Betsy Ross. It provides students and teachers with a platform for examining women's roles in American history.

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2	3	Government at Work	2	Extended Read (Anchor Text)	Our Government's Laws	Nya Brown	Y	520L	Informational Social Studies	This text addresses the government's law-making processes and the laws objectives. Photos in this text show diversity ample gender, racial, and ethnic diversity.
2	3	Government at Work	3	Extended Read (Anchor Text)	Getting a Message to General Washington	Susan Shafer	Y	530L	Realistic Fiction	Based on historical events, this story follows one boy as he delivers a crucial message to Washington. The characters in the text and illustrations are All White colonial-era males.
2	3	Government at Work	3	Poem	Words Like Freedom	Langston Hughes	Y	NP	Narrative Poem	Langston Hughes' poem recognizes the language of the African Diaspora as valid and essential to American literature and thought.
	4	Many Characters, Many Points of View	1	Short Read (Anchor Text)	The Blind Men and the Elephant	Sunita Apte	Y	690L	Folktale	The Southeast Indian folktale about four Indian blind men who try to decipher what an elephant looks like. The illustrations present authentic depictions of Indian wardrobe and architecture.
2	4	Many Characters, Many Points of View	1	Short Read (Anchor Text)	How the Beetle Got Its Gorgeous Coat	Elena Del Pino	Y	550L	Folktales	The story has a strong female main character who defeats a silly rat in a race. The rat is not observant enough to notice the beetle's wings. The story teaches readers not to judge a book by its cover, and provides a window into equal gender opportunities.
2	4	Many Characters, Many Points of View	2	Extended Read (Anchor Text)	Stone Soup	Winston Ramos	Y	520L	Folktale	This illustrated story depicts a number of culturAlly and raciAlly diverse characters, as a mysterious man comes into a village to feed those who live their stone soup. The tale demonstrates the priceless value of joint community effort.
2	4	Many Characters, Many Points of View	3	Extended Read (Anchor Text)	The Stone Garden	Jeffrey B. Fuerst	Y	570L	Folktale	This contemporary reimaging of the Stone Soup folktale contains no cultural or racial bias. The illustrations feature characters from ethnicAlly varied backgrounds.
2	4	Many Characters, Many Points of View	3	Poem	Read to Me	Jane Yolen	Y	NP	Narrative Poem	This fanciful poem is free of ethnic, racial, cultural, and gender stereotypes. The illustration depicts characters from different cultural backgrounds and eras.
2	5	Solving Problems Through Technology	1	Short Read (Anchor Text)	A Woman With Vision	Roman Karst	Y	550L	Biography	This historical informational text features images of Mary Anderson, who was instrumental in the invention of automobile windshield wipers. The text introduces the unit on technology with the tale of a little-known female inventor's life-saving contribution.
2	5	Solving Problems Through Technology	1	Short Read (Anchor Text)	A Lucky Accident	Mary Lou Freda	Y	640L	Biography	The story about George de Mestral's invention of velcro is free of ethnic, racial, cultural, and gender stereotypes.
2	5	Solving Problems Through Technology	2	Extended Read (Anchor Text)	Two Famous Inventors	Margaret McNamara	Y	680L	Biography	The text about White American inventor Thomas Edison is devoid of ethnic, racial, cultural, and gender stereotypes. The text about inventor George Washington Carver addresses the African Diaspora's contribution to the infrastructure of global society and avoids stereotypes. Carver survived slavery and went on to obtain a college education, and then create influential agricultural inventions. Photos and diagrams throughout the text depict the inventors and the products they created.

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2	5	Solving Problems Through Technology	3	Extended Read (Anchor Text)	Robots Go to School	Kathy Kafer	Y	510L	Informational Social Studies	Thr informational text focusses on physicALLY disabled children and how technology helps them integrate with other children at school. The accompanying photographs depict a raciALLY-mixed group of scholl children
2	5	Solving Problems Through Technology	3	Poem	Eletelphony	Laura E. Richards	Y	NP	Free Verse Poem	This nonsense poem is full of wordplay and contains no racial or social or sexual commentary.
2	6	Tales to Live By	1	Short Read (Anchor Text)	Village of the Moon Rain	Grace Lin	Y	650L	Folktale	Characters depicted are of Asian descent. The story is based on a Chinese folktale that contains no racial or social or sexual commentary. It is written by a well-known female Chinese-author
2	6	Tales to Live By	1	Short Read (Anchor Text)	The Huemel Egg	Carlos Labbe	Y	660L	Folktale	This trickster tale follows the clever exploits of a Latin American folk hero, Pedro Urdemales. The story is retold by a male Chilean author. It is is free of ethnic, racial, cultural, and gender stereotypes.
2	6	Tales to Live By	2	Extended Read (Anchor Text)	A Foxy Garden	Jeffrey B. Fuerst	Y	560L	Folktale	This trickster tale featuring anthropomorphized animal characters teaches a lesson about the importance and benefit of sharing. It is free of ethnic, racial, cultural, and gender stereotypes.
2	6	Tales to Live By	3	Extended Read (Anchor Text)	Why the Sky Is Far Away	Eileen Robinson	Y	740L	Folktale	This retelling of West African folktale about greed and respect for the environment includes African Diasporic content including cultural experiences, history, and traditions through the use of stories, legends, and myths derived from a balance of primary and secondary sources. The illustrations depict Nigerian males and females, wardrobe, and architecture. It is retold by a female African American and is free of ethnic, racial, cultural, and gender stereotypes.
2	6	Tales to Live By	3	Poem	Be Glad Your Nose is On Your Face	Jack Prelutsky	Y	NP	Narrative Poem	This funny poem by a well-known and beloved contemporary poet shows illustrations of children from different racial, ethnic and cultural backgrounds. It is free of ethnic, racial, cultural, and gender stereotypes.
2	7	Investigating the Past	1	Short Read (Anchor Text)	The Oregon Trail	Edith	N	550L	Realistic Fiction	This fictional diary entry from a girl's perspective tells what it was like to be on the Oregon Trail in the 1840s. It is free of ethnic, racial, cultural, and gender stereotypes.
2	7	Investigating the Past	1	Short Read (Anchor Text)	Ranch Flyer	Peggy Dunlap Little	N	730L	Narrative Nonfiction	This personal narrative tells what it was like to live on a ranch in Wyoming in the 1940s and the experience of her first flight in a single engine plane. It is free of ethnic, racial, cultural, and gender stereotypes. For comaprison, a photo shows a young African-American pilot, today, in a jet.

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2	7	Investigating the Past	2	Extended Read (Anchor Text)	Primary Sources	Margaret McNamara	Y	640L	Informational Social Studies	This informational text about different types of primary sources to be used in research includes historical paintings and toys, archival photos of famous people (such as the African-American Martin Luther King), as well people from different backgrounds (such as African-American TV reporters; an Asian girl interviewing her Dad). It is free of ethnic, racial, cultural, and gender stereotypes.
2	7	Investigating the Past	3	Extended Read (Anchor Text)	A Dinosaur Named SUE	Terri Patterson	Y	570L	Realistic Fiction	This fictional journal is based on the real-life dinosaur "dig" that uncovered a large T. Rex. It includes photos of the original archeological team and is free of ethnic, racial, cultural, and gender stereotypes.
2	7	Investigating the Past	3	Poem	Crazy Boys	Beverly McLoughlan	Y	NP	Narrative Poem	This fun poem is an homage to the daring and inventiveness of the Wright Bros., the first to accomplish manned flight. It is free of ethnic, racial, cultural, and gender stereotypes.
2	8	Wind and Water Change Earth	1	Short Read (Anchor Text)	Tornado!	Ben Chatham	N	650L	Informational Science	This informational text about hosw tornadoes form and what to do if one is predicted is free of ethnic, racial, cultural, and gender stereotypes.
2	8	Wind and Water Change Earth	1	Short Read (Anchor Text)	Water's Awesome Wonder	Sarah Brien	Y	690L	Opinion	This informational text is about the impact of water on the earth and is free of ethnic, racial, cultural, and gender stereotypes.
2	8	Wind and Water Change Earth	2	Extended Read (Anchor Text)	Earth's Changes	Louise Carroll	Y	570L	Informational Science	This informational text about erosion and weathering from wind and water is free of ethnic, racial, cultural, and gender stereotypes.
2	8	Wind and Water Change Earth	3	Extended Read (Anchor Text)	Naples Daily Tidings	Tracey Owen	Y	550L	Opinion	This fictionaized newspaper account of the impact on a hurricane on a Florida town is based on real event. It includes letters to the editor. It is free of ethnic, racial, cultural, and gender stereotypes.
2	8	Wind and Water Change Earth	3	Poem	Weather	Eve Merriam	Y	NP	Narrative Poem	This humorous tongue-twister of a poem about children playing in the rain shows children of different ethnicities and cultures. It is is free of ethnic, racial, cultural, and gender stereotypes.
2	9	Buyers and Sellers	1	Short Read (Anchor Text)	From Tree to BasebAll Bat	Matt Smith	N	570L	Technical Text	This procedural text on how basebAll bats are made is free of ethnic, racial, cultural, and gender stereotypes. It shows images of workers in rural workshops.
2	9	Buyers and Sellers	1	Short Read (Anchor Text)	Goat and Bear in Business	Gare Thompson	Y	680L	Fantasy	This funny animal fantasy story is based on a traditional folktale. It is free of ethnic, racial, cultural, and gender stereotypes.
2	9	Buyers and Sellers	2	Extended Read (Anchor Text)	From Pine Tree to Pizza Box	Amy and Richard Hutchings	Y	530L	Technical Text	This procedural text shows the processes involved in making cardboard. It is free of ethnic, racial, cultural, and gender stereotypes and depicts workers in a range of occupations.

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2	9	Buyers and Sellers	3	Extended Read (Anchor Text)	Cherokee Art Fair	Traci Sorell	Y	700L	Realistic Fiction	This realistic fiction story is by a female Native American/Cherokee. It is about a Native American girl making tradiitional necklaces to sell in her mothers shop and is free of ethnic, racial, cultural, and gender stereotypes. The illustrations show other charactes assumed to be Native American.
2	9	Buyers and Sellers	3	Poem	Turtle Soup	Lewis Carroll	Y	NP	Narrative Poem	This silly poem about soup by a world-famous children's book author shows characters in Victorian era dress, the time period of the original poem.
2	10	States of Matter	1	Short Read (Anchor Text)	The Art of Origami	Sarah Brien	Y	530L	Informational Arts	This procedural text on the Chinese practice of Origami is free of ethnic, racial, cultural, and gender stereotypes.
2	10	States of Matter	1	Short Read (Anchor Text)	Sand Sculpture	Eleanor Hahn	Y	650L	Informational Science	This informational text about the art and craft of building sand sculptures is free of ethnic, racial, cultural, and gender stereotypes.
2	10	States of Matter	2	Extended Read (Anchor Text)	Matter Changes in Many Ways	Jay Brewster	Y	640L	Informational Science	This informational text about the properties of the three states of matter and is free of ethnic, racial, cultural, and gender stereotypes. Photos include a multicultural girl having fun blowing up a bAlloon.
2	10	States of Matter	3	Extended Read (Anchor Text)	Crazy Horse Memorial	Art Coulson	Y	690L	Informational Science	This informational text about the making of the Crazy Horse Memorial includes an archival image of the Native American Crazy Horse in his full chief regalia. It is written by a male Native American author. The text is is free of ethnic, racial, cultural, and gender stereotypes.
2	10	States of Matter	3	Poem	It's All Weather	Constance Andrea Keremes	Y	NP	Narrative Poem	This rhyming poem about types of weather and precipitation includes illustrations of child characters from different ethnic and cultural backgrounds. It is free of ethnic, racial, cultural, and gender stereotypes.