

Benchmark Advance 2026 Anchor Texts and Poetry — Grade 3

Grade	Unit	Unit Topic	Week	Type	Title	Author	Previously Published Author (Y/N)	Lexile Level	Genre	Race, Ethnicity, Topics, and Cultural Groups Represented
3	1	Animal Adaptations	1	Short Read (Anchor Text)	Animal Disguises	Maria Guerro	Y	710L	Informational Science	There is no indication of race/nationality in the text about animal adaptations.
3	1	Animal Adaptations	1	Short Read (Anchor Text)	Animals’ Tools for Survival	Sue Qin	Y	610L	Informational Science	There is no indication of race/nationality in the text about animals.
3	1	Animal Adaptations	2	Extended Read (Anchor Text)	Animal Coverings	Anna Miller	Y	730L	Informational Science	There is no indication of race/nationality in the text about animal fur, skin, scales, and feathers.
3	1	Animal Adaptations	3	Extended Read (Anchor Text)	One Body, Many Adaptations	Judi Black	Y	620L	Informational Science	There is no indication of race/nationality in the text about how animals adapt in nature.
3	1	Animal Adaptations	3	Poem	Something Told the Wild Geese	Rachel Field	Y	NP	Narrative Poem	There is no indication of race/nationality in this poem about geese migrating.
3	1	Ways Characters Shape Stories	1	Short Read (Anchor Text)	Two Aesop's Fables: Dog and Bone & Ant and Dove	Jerry Pinkney	Y	790L	Folktale	These fables show animal characters illustrated by well-known African-American children's book author and illustrator Jerry Pinkney. There are no gender stereotypes.
3	2	Ways Characters Shape Stories	1	Short Read (Anchor Text)	Two Famous Poems	anonymous; Henry Wadsworth Longfellow	Y	NP	Narrative Poem	This poem honors the cultural assets of the African Diaspora in text and resources. The poem John Henry is about a male, African-American tall tale hero. The classic Longfellow poem depicts the main character, the Blacksmith as a male African-American. This text is free from racial, linguistic, and gender stereotypes.
3	2	Ways Characters Shape Stories	2	Extended Read (Anchor Text)	The Tale of King Midas: A Greek Myth	Gare Thompson	Y	620L	Myth	This is a retelling of a classic Greek myth. The illustrations feature characters that we can assume to be Greek and look white. This text is free from racial, linguistic, and ethnic stereotypes.
3	2	Ways Characters Shape Stories	3	Extended Read (Anchor Text)	Uncle Parrot's Wedding	Andrés Pi Andreu	Y	650L	Folktale	This is a retelling of a popular Cuban folktale involving animal characters. It was translated from the original Spanish story written by a male Cuban author.
3	2	Ways Characters Shape Stories	3	Poem	Walrus and the Carpenter	Lewis Carroll	Y	NP	Narrative Poem	There is no indication of race/nationality in this famous poem.
3	3	Government for the People	1	Short Read (Anchor Text)	Working Together	Sarah Glasscock	Y	700L	Informational Social Studies	This text shows how a community in North Dakota came together to resolve a crisis. There are no racial, ethnic, linguistic or gender stereotypes.
3	3	Government for the People	1	Short Read (Anchor Text)	Election Day	Nell Wilson	Y	700L	Informational Social Studies	This text expose students to the expanse of African history in the U.S. including pictures, content and language excluding any stereotypes. It also contains pictures of diverse historical figures, including Thurgood Marshall (who was the first African-American Supreme Court justice) and the suffragettes. The text also features a timeline of voting milestones accompanied by a photograph of an African-American male.

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3	3	Government for the People	2	Extended Read (Anchor Text)	Fighters for Rights: Rosa Parks and Cesar Chavez	Harper Larios	Y	760L	Biography	This text expose students to the expanse of African history, including pictures, content and language excluding any stereotypes. It focuses on Rosa Parks, an African American female and Cesar Chavez, a Mexican-American male.
3	3	Government for the People	3	Extended Read (Anchor Text)	African-Americans and Women Get the Right to Vote	T. P. Durban	Y	790L	Informational Social Studies	This text expose students to the expanse of African history, including pictures, content and language excluding any stereotypes. It shows historical images of women suffragists and African-Americans.
3	3	Government for the People	3	Poem	Lincoln Monument: Washington	Langston Hughes	Y	NP	Narrative Poem	This poem by noted African American author Langston Hughes recognizes the language of the African Diaspora as valid, true and contributing to important literature and thought. A photo of Langston Hughes and a marble image of Lincoln from the Lincoln memorial are shown.
3	3	Comparing Points of View	1	Short Read (Anchor Text)	Cinderella’s Very Bad Day	Gare Thompson	Y	540L	Folktale	The illustrated character in this humorous reimagining of the Cinderella story is the traditional white female but depicted as independent-minded.
3	4	Comparing Points of View	1	Short Read (Anchor Text)	Cinderella, Too Much for Words	Gare Thompson	Y	NP	Drama	The illustrated characters in this satirical reimagining of the Cinderella story are the traditional white females.
3	4	Comparing Points of View	2	Extended Read (Anchor Text)	Rabbit and Coyote	Francisco Hinojosa	Y	640L	Myth	As befits its cultural heritage, the Farmer character is Mexican; the other characters are anthropomorphized animals. This a trickster tale involving animal characters. It is translated from the original Spanish text by an award-winning, male Mexican author.
3	4	Comparing Points of View	3	Extended Read (Anchor Text)	The Trial of Rabbit	Francisco Hinojosa	Y	NP	Drama	As befits its cultural heritage, the Farmer character is Mexican; the other characters are anthropomorphized animals. There are no gender to ethnic stereotypes.
3	4	Comparing Points of View	3	Poem	Fish in a Bowl	Jannette Shoemaker	Y	NP	Narrative Poem	The narrator of this humorous poem is a fish. There is no indication of race/nationality or gender stereotypes. There is a photo of the author, a While female.
3	4	Comparing Points of View	1	Short Read (Anchor Text)	Dr. Shirley Jackson's Scientific Mind	Roger K. Smith	Y	820L	Biography	This text is about a woman of African descent and is free from racial, linguistic, and gender stereotypes. This text acknowledges what Dr. Jackson, a female African-American scientist, has contributed to science.
3	5	Advancements in Technology	1	Short Read (Anchor Text)	From Phone Calls to Videochat	Caleb Adams	Y	790L	Informational Social Studies	There two White males shown in this text about the history of the telephone. One is Alexander Graham Bell, credited with inventing the telephone.
3	5	Advancements in Technology	2	Extended Read (Anchor Text)	Thomas Edison: A Curious Mind	Elizabeth Michaels	Y	790L	Biography	This biography of the renowned American inventor includes an image of Edison, a White male.

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3	5	Advancements in Technology	3	Extended Read (Anchor Text)	Hear All About It!: New Technologies to Help the Deaf	Rosalba Giaratano	Y	840L	Informational Social Studies	This informational text shows deaf/hearing-challenged White and Black children. It is written by a Hispanic female who works with the hearing challenged community.
3	5	Advancements in Technology	3	Poem	My Smart Phone Isn't Very Smart	Kenn Nesbitt	Y	NP	Narrative Poem	This humorous, gently chiding poem is about the influence of technology on our contemporary lives. There is a photo of the author, a White Male.
3	5	Making Decisions	1	Short Read (Anchor Text)	Addison and Rocky	Crystal Allen	Y	680L	Realistic Fiction	An African American girl trains her neighbor's dog to do new tricks and shows them off to her friends (other children of different backgrounds). This text is free from racial, linguistic, and gender stereotypes. It is written by noted female African American author. Crystal Allen
3	6	Making Decisions	1	Short Read (Anchor Text)	A President for Everyone	Crystal Allen	Y	740L	Realistic Fiction	The illustrations show of students from different cultural and ethnic backgrounds participating in a student election. The text is free from racial, linguistic, and gender stereotypes. It is written by and contains a photo of noted female African American author Cyrstal Allen.
3	6	Making Decisions	2	Extended Read (Anchor Text)	Rapping Magicians	Crystal Allen	Y	640L	Realistic Fiction	The main characters are two girls (one African American and one White) who brainstorm an idea to afford summer camp. This text contains people of African descent and is free from racial, linguistic, and gender stereotypes. It is written by a noted female African American author.
3	6	Making Decisions	3	Extended Read (Anchor Text)	The Big Game	Crystal Allen	Y	680L	Realistic Fiction	The main characters -- Kyrie and Shawn - are African-American boys. The setting is a suburban-rural area of southwest Texas. This text is about people of African descent and is free from racial, linguistic, and gender stereotypes. It is written by a noted female African American author.
3	6	Making Decisions	3	Poem	Choices	Allen Steble	Y	NP	Narrative Poem	This uplifting poem about finding joy includes photos of people of various nations, cultures, and races. It contain a photo of the poet, a White male.
3	6	Making Decisions	1	Short Read (Anchor Text)	My St. Augustine Journal	Lisa Benjamin	Y	710L	Autobiography	The author of this journal entry about her life in St. Augustine, Florida is African American. A photo of the author, an African American female, is included. The text is free from ethnic, linguistic, and gender stereotypes.
3	7	Communities Then and Now	1	Short Read (Anchor Text)	A New Life in Vermont	Julia Alvarez	Y	890L	Realistic Fiction	The family depicted in illustrations is Hispanic; the mother is a college professor. This text is about people of Latino/Hispanic descent and is free from ethnic, linguistic, and gender stereotypes. It includes a photo of the author, noted female Domican-American Julia Alvarez.

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3	7	Communities Then and Now	2	Extended Read (Anchor Text)	All Kinds of Communities	Amelia G., Elijah B., Colin R.	N	760L	Autobiography	The text is from three kids (a White female, an African American male, and a White male as seen in their photos) from different geographic, cultural, and ethnic backgrounds around the U.S. The text is free from ethnic, linguistic, and gender stereotypes.
3	7	Communities Then and Now	3	Extended Read (Anchor Text)	Sarah and the Chickens	Patricia MacLachlan	Y	580L	Informational History	The illustrated characters are historically accurate to the time and setting: the rural Midwest in the late 1800s. A photo of White female author Patricia MacLachlan is included.
3	7	Communities Then and Now	3	Poem	City	Langston Hughes	Y	NP	Narrative Poem	Langston Hughes' poetic depiction and accompanying photo of an African-American city scene in the mid-20th century recognizes the language of the African Diaspora as valid, true and contributing to important literature and thought. A photo of African American poet Langston Hughes is included.
3	7	Weather and Climate	1	Short Read (Anchor Text)	Fairweather Clouds	Carmen Corriols	Y	NP	Free Verse Poem	There is no indication of race/nationality in this text about types of clouds.
3	8	Weather and Climate	1	Short Read (Anchor Text)	Earth's Weather and Climate	Laura McDonald	Y	760L	Informational Science	There is no indication of race/nationality in the text about weather patterns and climate zones.
3	8	Weather and Climate	2	Extended Read (Anchor Text)	After the Storm	Faride Mereb	Y	700L	Realistic Fiction	The story and illustrations show a close relationship between a Lebanese-American girl and her grandmother. The author is a female of Lebanese descent, from Venezuela. The text is free from ethnic, linguistic, and gender stereotypes. A photo of the author is included.
3	8	Weather and Climate	3	Extended Read (Anchor Text)	The Tropical Rain Belt	NOAA	Y	840L	Informational Science	There is no indication of race/nationality in the text about the weather, climate, and storms in the tropics. It includes a sidebar on Florida hurricanes.
3	8	Weather and Climate	3	Poem	Who Has Seen the Wind?	Christina Rossetti	Y	NP	Narrative Poem	There is no indication of race/nationality in this classic poem about the wind. Photos of White female poet Christina Rossetti and White male painter Andrew Wyeth are shown.
3	8	Spending Time and Money	1	Short Read (Anchor Text)	Making Choices: Ben Franklin's "Two Cents" ; The Ants and the Grasshopper	Kelly Gold; Aesop	Y Y	710L	Folktale	There is no indication of race/nationality in the text, which includes a famous saying by Ben Franklin and a retelling of an Aesop's fable with animal characters.
3	9	Spending Time and Money	1	Short Read (Anchor Text)	Let it Grow: The Booming Business of Farmers’ Markets	Lisa Benjamin	Y	720L	Informational Social Studies	There is no indication of race/nationality in the text about the growth of farmer's markets; there is an implicit celebration of rural contributions to the U.S. economy and culture. Photos show White adults at a farmer's market.
3	9	Spending Time and Money	2	Extended Read (Anchor Text)	Lucky Hans	Evan Russell	Y	620L	Folktale	In this retelling of a classic German folktale with a middle European setting, the illustrations are true to the original era.

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3	9	Spending Time and Money	3	Extended Read (Anchor Text)	From Fruit to Jam: A Tasty List of Choices	Alan Wood	Y	760L	Informational Social Studies	There is no indication of race/nationality in this text about how marmalade is manufactured and brought to market. Photos include an upscale African American couple shopping.
3	9	Spending Time and Money	3	Poem	Pet Shopping	Kenn Nesbitt	Y	NP	Narrative Poem	There is no indication of race/nationality in this humorous poem about types of pets. It includes a photo of White male author Kenn Nesbitt.
3	9	Forces and Interactions	1	Short Read (Anchor Text)	Poems of Movement: "Baseball Physics" and "Taking Newton's Laws to the Hoop"	Charles R. Smith, Jr.	Y	NP	Narrative Poem	These sports poems were conceived of and written by male African American author Charles Smith, Jr. The photos include a contemporary African American boy and a photo of the author.
3	10	Forces and Interactions	1	Short Read (Anchor Text)	What Makes Things Move?	Kathy Furgang	Y	770L	Informational Science	There is no indication of race/nationality in this science text. It is free of linguistic and gender stereotypes.
3	10	Forces and Interactions	2	Extended Read (Anchor Text)	The Energy of the Thunder Beings	Art Coulson	Y	650L	Folktale	This text is an original Cherokee folktale that is free of ethnic, linguistic, and gender stereotypes. It is written by a male Native American/Cherokee. The illustrations depict a Native American/Cherokee boy and his mother in a historically authentic setting: Tennessee in the early 1800s. The text also contains a photo of the author.
3	10	Forces and Interactions	3	Extended Read (Anchor Text)	Magnetic Fields	Brooke Harris	Y	840L	Informational Science	There is no indication of race/nationality in this science text about magnetic fields and forces.
3	10	Forces and Interactions	3	Poem	The Wind	Robert Louis Stevenson	Y	NP	Narrative Poem	There is no indication of race/nationality or gender stereotypes in this classic poem about a child playing in the wind. An image of a White girl and a photo of White male author Robert Louis Stevenson are included.