

Benchmark Advance 2026 Anchor Texts and Poetry — Grade 5

Grade	Unit	Unit Topic	Week	Type	Title	Author	Previously Published Author (Y/N)	Lexile Level	Genre	Race, Ethnicity, Topics, and Cultural Groups Represented
5	1	Cultivating Natural Resources	1	Short Read (Anchor Text)	The Structure of a Corn Plant	Matthew Felkonian	Y	1000L	Informational Science	This informational text about the structure of corn contains no stereotypes.
5	1	Cultivating Natural Resources	1	Short Read (Anchor Text)	The Past and Future of a Crop	Amelia Millilo	Y	860L	Informational Science	This opinion text about the past and future of crops contains no stereotypes.
5	1	Cultivating Natural Resources	2	Extended Read (Anchor Text)	A Short History of a Special Plant	Laura McDonald	Y	980L	Informational Science	This informational text is about plants, there no depictions of people.
5	1	Cultivating Natural Resources	3	Extended Read (Anchor Text)	The Science of Growing Food	Carla Corriols; Verlyn Klinkenborg	Y Y	1090L	Opinion Text	These two opposing opinion texts focus on how food grows, there are no depictions of people.
5	1	Cultivating Natural Resources	3	Poem	A Girl's Garden	Robert Frost	Y	NP	Narrative Poem	This poem contains no stereotypes.
5	2	Developing Characters' Relationships	1	Short Read (Anchor Text)	The Drive Down	Jason Reynolds	Y	1080L	Realistic Fiction	This text is about two young African American boys who leave their Brooklyn home for the summer to visit relatives in Virigina. This excerpt captures the car ride on the way to Virigina.
5	2	Developing Characters' Relationships	1	Short Read (Anchor Text)	Grandpop's Surprise	Jason Reynolds	Y	740L	Realistic Fiction	In this excerpt, the character Genie (African American boy), learns his grandfather is blind. All characters in this text are African American.
5	2	Developing Characters' Relationships	2	Extended Read (Anchor Text)	Sky-Glitter	Jason Reynolds	Y	770L	Realistic Fiction	In this excerpt, Genie feels guilty about breaking one of his Grandpa's modeled cars. The illsutrations are of Genie and his Grandpa (both African American).
5	2	Developing Characters' Relationships	3	Extended Read (Anchor Text)	Ernie's Secret	Jason Reynolds	Y	780L	Realistic Fiction	In this excerpt, we see the two brothers Genie and Ernie interacting. Ernie accidentally shoots his tooth. The illsutrations are the two brothers (both African American).
5	2	Developing Characters' Relationships	3	Poem	Casey at the Bat, by Ernest Lawrence Thayer	Ernest Lawrence Thayer	Y	N/P	Narrative Poem	There is no indication of race or nationality in this text.
5	3	The U.S Constitution: Then and Now	1	Short Read (Anchor Text)	Creating the Constitution	Benjamin Godfey	Y	960L	Informational Social Studies	This text talks about the creation of the constitution and James Madison's role in creating it.
5	3	The U.S Constitution: Then and Now	1	Short Read (Anchor Text)	President Lyndon Johnson's Voting Rights Act Address	President Lyndon B/ Johonson	Y	920L	Informational Social Studies	This text feeatures President Lyndon B. Johnson's (White American) speech to congress, as he discusses the challenges of enforcing voting rights and overcoming prejudice and social and racial injustice.
5	3	The U.S Constitution: Then and Now	2	Extended Read (Anchor Text)	Fighting for the Right to Vote	Margaret Macon	Y	890L	Informational Social Studies	This text highlights the notable African American figures who fought for the right to vote. It also includes the cultural experinces and history of African Americans.
5	3	The U.S Constitution: Then and Now	3	Extended Read (Anchor Text)	Thurgood Marshall's Liberty Medal Acceptance Speech	Justice Thurgood Marshall	Y	1000L	Informational Social Studies	This text feature's Thurgood Marshall as he delivers his Liberty Medal speech. In this speech, Marshall discusses the the fight for freedom and equality is an ongoing battle. It also includes African-American men and women, with a few White females who have been awarded this medal.

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5	3	The U.S Constitution: Then and Now	3	Poem	The New Colossus	Emma Lazarus	Y	NP	Narrative Poem	This poem contains no stereotypes.
5	4	Recognizing Authors' Point of View	1	Short Read (Anchor Text)	I Hear America Singing / Caged Bird	Walt Whitman/ Maya Angelou	Y	NP	Free Verse Poem	The first poem is written by a Walt Whitman (a White, American, male) and the second by Maya Angelou (an African-American female). Walt Whitman's poem boast of the best parts of America, while Angelou bring a different persepective, one that is of opression and racil injustices. The language of Angelou's poem recognizes Africa Diaspora as valid and true and contributing to important literature and thought.
5	4	Recognizing Authors' Point of View	1	Short Read (Anchor Text)	Gold Country	Laurence Yep	Y	790L	Realistic Fiction	This text is told from the point of view of an immigrant from China during the Gold Rush period in America. It also includes multi-racial characters.
5	4	Recognizing Authors' Point of View	2	Extended Read (Anchor Text)	I Speak Spanish, Too	Maria Mahia	Y	800L	Realistic Fiction	This text is about people of hispanic descent. The story follows Judy Baca as she moves to Los Angeles and has to learn how to speak English. The illsutrations are of characters from different backgrounds. The main character is of Mexican descent.
5	4	Recognizing Authors' Point of View	3	Extended Read (Anchor Text)	Miguel's Prophecy	Pam Muñoz Ryan	Y	740L	Realistic Fiction	This text is about a young great who moves with her family to California during the great depression. The story depicts the struggles they face as they look for work. This story contains people of hispanic descent and is free of gender, ethnics, and lingustic stereotypes.
5	4	Recognizing Authors' Point of View	3	Poem	I, Too	Langston Hughes	Y	NP	Narrative Poem	Hughes poem depicts the struggles many African Americans faced because of racial injustices. The language of Hughes' poem recognizes Africa Diaspora as valid and true and contributing to important literature and thought.
5	5	Technology's Impact on Society	1	Short Read (Anchor Text)	Technology and the Lowell Mill Girls	Anonymous and Marshall Putnam Thompson	Y	NP	Narrative Poem	This text discusses the role of women in the industrial revolution and their contribution as well. The text contains 2 perspectives of working women and they describe their experience working in th Mills. This text recognizes the experience of working women as valid and true.

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5	5	Technology's Impact on Society	1	Short Read (Anchor Text)	Eli Whitney's Cotton Gin	Judi Black	Y	970L	Informational Social Studies	This text is about the creation of the cotton gin and the role it played in the Industrial Revolution. Part of this text includes contributions of the African Diaspora to the infrastructure of global society and acknowledges and examines the role the Cotton Gin, the cotton industry, and the Northern and Southern economies played in perpetuating the enslavement of people of people of African descent.
5	5	Technology's Impact on Society	2	Extended Read (Anchor Text)	Poems of the Industrial Age (new)	Jean Toomer, James Steele Smith, Carl Sandburg	Y	NP	Narrative Poem	These selections discuss the expereinces of 3 male writers in a post industrial America. The first poem is by an African American poet and the others are by White poets. Each piece brings a unquie perspective of the industrial revolution.
5	5	Technology's Impact on Society	3	Extended Read (Anchor Text)	The Making of the Industrial Age	Kathy Furgang	Y	980L	Informational Social Studies	This text discusses the timeline of the industrial revoution and inlcudes the major milestones. There is no indication of race or nationlity in this piece. Images are from the industrial revolution and discusses notable figures during this time.
5	5	Technology's Impact on Society	3	Poem	The Secret of Machines	Rudyard Kipling	Y	NP	Narrative Poem	This text is not applicable because it does not contain people within it.
5	6	Up Against the Wild	1	Short Read (Anchor Text)	Androcles and the Lion	Aesop	Y	960L	Folktale	This piece is a retelling of the tale Androcles and the Lion. The illustrations are black and white, race and nationality cannot be depicted.
5	6	Up Against the Wild	1	Short Read (Anchor Text)	Brushfire!	David Boelke	Y	NP	Drama	This play is about the fire season in California. The characters are being asked to leave their home and seek safety. There are few illustrations, nationality and race cannot be determined.
5	6	Up Against the Wild	2	Extended Read (Anchor Text)	The Law of Club and Fang	Jack London	Y	950L	Realistic Fiction	This text is about animals. No humans depicted.
5	6	Up Against the Wild	3	Extended Read (Anchor Text)	The Knotted Branch	Joseph Bruchac	Y	940L	Realistic Fiction	This excerpt is about Saxsco, a young boy part of the Abenaki village, who is trying to find his family.
5	6	Up Against the Wild	3	Poem	Hunting Snake	Judith Wright	Y	NP	Narrative Poem	This text is about snakes. No humans depicted.
5	7	Conflicts that Shaped a Nation	1	Short Read (Anchor Text)	The Banners of Freedom	Boyrereau Brinch	Y	980L	Autobiography	This passage is about a an enslaved African American who served in the connecticut militia during the independence war. This passage discusses that although many were fighting for freedom African Americans were not free. This passage includes African Diasporic content including culutral experiences.
5	7	Conflicts that Shaped a Nation	1	Short Read (Anchor Text)	Road to Revolution	Susan Buckley	Y	930L	Informational History	This text discusses the key events that led to the American Revolution. There is no indication of race in this piece.

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5	7	Conflicts that Shaped a Nation	2	Extended Read (Anchor Text)	Native Americans in the Revolution	Abigail Conklin	Y	1040L	Informational Social Studies	This text discusses the role of Native Americans in the American Revolution. Some nations wanted to remain neutral, while others chose different sides. This text discusses the ramification of those choices for the different Native American nations. This passage also recognizes that the end of the war did not mean the end of violence between Native Americans and Americans.
5	7	Conflicts that Shaped a Nation	3	Extended Read (Anchor Text)	The Eighteenth of April	Esther Forbes	Y	850L	Realistic Fiction	This text is about a young White boy, who moves to Boston a few months before the revolution. The young man ends up working as a spy for thePatriots and contributes to them winning the war. The illustrations are of a young White boy and an older white man, no race or nationality is identified.
5	7	Conflicts that Shaped a Nation	3	Poem	Paul Revere’s Ride	Henry Wadsworth Longfellow	Y	NP	Narrative Poem	This poem describes Paul Revere's journey as he delivers his message to the Patriots.
5	8	Water: Fact and Fiction	1	Short Read (Anchor Text)	The Odyssey Begins	Mary Pope Osborne	Y	750L	Myth	This text is a retelling of the classic Greek tale, the Odyssey. This excerpt features Odysseus beginning his voyage home after the war. The illustrations are of a young man with tan-skin.
5	8	Water: Fact and Fiction	1	Short Read (Anchor Text)	Water-Wise Landscaper	Climate Kids/Michelle Pekko-Seymoure	Y	780L	Informational Science	This text is an interview between "Climate Kids" and Michelle Pekko Seymoure. They discuss the different desert climates.
5	8	Water: Fact and Fiction	2	Extended Read (Anchor Text)	The Voyage	Mary Pope Osborne	Y	820L	Myth	This excerpt from the Odyssey, Odysseus left Calypso's island and is once again trying to return home. His boat crashes, but somehow makes it to the shore.The illustrations are of a young man with tan-skin.
5	8	Water: Fact and Fiction	3	Extended Read (Anchor Text)	Questions and Answers About Oceans	Climate Kids	Y	1000L	Informational Science	This informational text focuses on different facts about the ocean. There are no stereotypes.
5	8	Water: Fact and Fiction	3	Poem	Burn Lake	Carrie Fountain	Y	NP	Narrative Poem	This poem does not contain any depictions of people.
5	9	The Economic Development of Cities	1	Short Read (Anchor Text)	The Birth of Chicago	Odia Wood-Krueger	Y	950L	Informational Social Studies	This text discusses the history and culutal diversity in Chicago. The first people to be in the Chicago region were the Native Americans. Europeans came after around 1673. It also mentions Jean Baptiste Point du Sable, a free man of African descent.
5	9	The Economic Development of Cities	1	Short Read (Anchor Text)	Chicago: An American Hub	Ena Kao	Y	940L	Informational Social Studies	This text expands on the history and culutal diversity in Chicago, mentioning major events such as the Chicago fire.

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5	9	The Economic Development of Cities	2	Extended Read (Anchor Text)	The Great Migration and the Growth of Cities	Monica Halpern	Y	1050L	Informational Social Studies	This text discusses what the Great Migration was and how African Americans were impacted by it. Many African Americans moved North in search of opportunity and escape from violence and oppression they were facing in the south. This piece also mentions the success African Americans had when they moved such as having more job opportunities and they were able to form their own communities.
5	9	The Economic Development of Cities	3	Extended Read (Anchor Text)	Old Cities Revitalize	Alexandra Hanson-Harding	Y	950L	Informational Social Studies	This text discusses the advancement of American cities.
5	9	The Economic Development of Cities	3	Poem	Skyscraper	Carl Sandburg	Y	NP	Narrative Poem	This texture does not feature people.
5	10	Transforming Matter	1	Short Read (Anchor Text)	John Dalton: Father of the Atomic Theory	Kathy Furgang	Y	880L	Biography	This piece talks about John Dalton, (White, English, male) a 19th century chemist who created the atomic theory.
5	10	Transforming Matter	1	Short Read (Anchor Text)	Matter is Everywhere!	Seba Milo	Y	850L	Informational Social Studies	This text discusses the different forms of matter.
5	10	Transforming Matter	1	Extended Read (Anchor Text)	Balloon Ride	Alice Boynton	Y	870L	Informational Social Studies	This passage explains how balloon rides work. The text features no people.
5	10	Transforming Matter	2	Extended Read (Anchor Text)	Investigate: Changes in Matter	Laura McDonald	Y	800L	Informational Social Studies	This text discusses how the states of matter change between one another.
5	10	Transforming Matter	3	Extended Read (Anchor Text)	Marie M. Daly: Biochemistry Pioneer	Drake Conyers	Y	1030L	Biography	The focus of this text is the first African-American woman to earn a PhD in chemistry. This text is about an African American woman and challenges gender, ethnic, and linguistic stereotypes.
5	10	Transforming Matter	3	Poem	The Snowflake	Walter de la Mare	Y	NP	Informational Social Studies	There are no stereotypes in this piece.