

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS: LIBRARIANS

## Using Lexile® measures to help students “Find a Book” this summer

Young children and their parents may come into your library this summer and ask for help finding books in a Lexile range that match their interests. The following information will help with these requests.

### **What is a Lexile measure?**

A Lexile measure indicates the reading level of an individual or a book. The Lexile scale is a developmental scale for measuring reader ability and text complexity, ranging from below 0L for beginning readers and beginning reader materials to above 2000L for advanced readers and materials. The Lexile level of a book is indicated by an L following the number. For example, a book with a Lexile level of 440L would be best matched with student in grade 2 and might include a title like Hans Christian Andersen’s *The Ugly Duckling*. A book list with a Lexile level of 1200L might include Jane Austen’s *Pride and Prejudice* or *Ethan Frome* by Edith Wharton and would be more appropriate for students in grades 9/10.

### **How does a student get a Lexile measure in Maine?**

More than 50 popular reading assessments and programs report out Lexile measures. Visit [www.Lexile.com/about-lexile/How-to-get-lexile-measures](http://www.Lexile.com/about-lexile/How-to-get-lexile-measures) for a complete list. By comparing a student's Lexile measure with the Lexile measure of a book; you can decide whether its text demand will be too difficult, too easy or just right for a student's reading ability. To best strengthen his or her reading skills, a student should read books within his or her Lexile range.

### **Does a student need a Lexile measure to use “Find a Book, Maine”?**

No. “Find a Book, Maine” can estimate a student’s starting Lexile range based on his or her grade and comfort with the reading material at that grade. Then, based on the book search results, a student can further refine his or her Lexile range to select books that best support successful reading.

### **Is a Lexile measure the only criteria to consider when picking a book?**

A Lexile measure is a measure of text complexity only. It does not address the subject matter or text quality, age-appropriateness of the content or a student’s interests. The Lexile measure is one piece of information that students can use to select books.

Some books also have a Lexile code—a two-letter designation that appears before the Lexile measure (for example, AD580L)—to provide more information about the book’s developmental appropriateness, reading difficulty and common or intended usage. Visit [www.Lexile.com](http://www.Lexile.com) for more information on Lexile codes.

### **How can you use Lexile measures to help students find books?**

With the free “Find a Book, Maine” search tool, you can help students select books that best match his or her reading ability (Lexile measure), interests and goals. It’s easy and fun to use!

## Should a student try to read books outside of his or her Lexile range?

A student can read books that are above or below his or her Lexile range. However, books that are below a student's Lexile range may offer little challenge in terms of new vocabulary and complex grammatical structure. Similarly, books that are above his or her Lexile range may be too challenging and discourage the reader.

*Higher Lexile measures allow an advanced and enthusiastic reader to:*

- be challenged with high-interest books above his or her Lexile level
- seek help with a hard but interesting book
- find other books on the same subject but at a higher Lexile level

*Lower Lexile measures allow a struggling and reluctant reader to:*

- build skills with less challenging books on topics of choice
- select high-low books based on Lexile and development levels
- find other books on the same subject but at a lower level

### 1. Go to **www.Lexile.com/fab/ME**

### 2. Enter the student's Lexile measure

If you do not know the student's Lexile measure, you can search for books based on his or her comfort with grade-level materials.

### 3. Have the student select interest categories

### 4. View and refine the search results

As you browse books, click the "Find in a Library" button next to the book titles to check its availability at your public library.

### 5. Add books to the student's reading list

You can print or email the student's custom book list.



The Lexile® Framework for Reading evaluates reading ability and text complexity on the same developmental scale. Unlike other measurement systems, the Lexile Framework determines reading ability based on actual assessments, rather than generalized age or grade levels. Recognized as the standard for matching readers with texts, tens of millions of students worldwide receive a Lexile measure that helps them find targeted readings from more than 100 million articles, books and websites that have been measured. Lexile measures connect learners of all ages with resources at the right level of challenge and monitor their progress toward state and national proficiency standards.

