



EXPEDITIONARY  
LEARNING

# Grade 7: Module 3A: Recommended Texts



This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 3.0 Unported License.  
Exempt third-party content is indicated by the footer: © (name of copyright holder). Used by permission and not subject to Creative Commons license.



The list below includes texts with a range of Lexile® text measures about Frederick Douglass and slavery. It is imperative that students read a high volume of texts at their reading level in order to continue to build the academic vocabulary and fluency demanded by the CCLS. Note that districts and schools should consider their own community standards when reviewing this list. Some texts in particular units or modules address emotionally difficult content.

It is imperative that students read a high volume of texts at their reading level in order to continue to build the academic vocabulary and fluency demanded by the CCLS.

Where possible, texts in languages other than English are also provided. Texts are categorized into three Lexile levels that correspond to Common Core Bands: below grade band, within band, and above band. Note, however, that Lexile® measures are just one indicator of text complexity, and teachers must use their professional judgment and consider qualitative factors as well. For more information, see Appendix 1 of the Common Core State Standards.

**Common Core Band Level Text Difficulty Ranges:**

(As provided in the NYSED Passage Selection Guidelines for Assessing CCSS ELA)

- Grade 2–3: 420–820L
- Grade 4–5: 740–1010L
- Grade 6–8: 925–1185L

Title	Author And Illustrator	Text Type	Lexile Measure
<b>Lexile text measures in Grade 2–3 band level (below 740L)</b>			
<i>My America: Freedom’s Wings</i>	Sharon Wyeth (author)	Literature	350
<i>Never Forgotten</i>	Pat McKissack (author)	Literature	630*
<i>The People Could Fly</i>	Virginia Hamilton (author)	Literature/Folklore	660
<i>Chasing the Nightbird</i>	Krista Russell (author)	Literature	680

\*Lexile based on a conversion from Accelerated Reading level



Title	Author And Illustrator	Text Type	Lexile Measure
<b>Lexile text measures in Grade 4–5 band level (740–925L)</b>			
<i>Nightjohn</i>	Gary Paulsen (author)	Literature	770
<i>My Name Is Henry Bibb: A Story of Slavery and Freedom</i>	Afua Cooper (author)	Literature	800
<i>Sarny: A Life Remembered</i>	Gary Paulsen (author)	Literature	840
<i>Jump Ship to Freedom</i>	James Collier (author)	Literature	850
<b>Lexile text measures within Grade 6–8 band level (925–1185L)</b>			
<i>Let It Shine: Stories of Black Women Freedom Fighters</i>	Andrea Davis Pinkney (author)	Biography	940
<i>The Slave Dancer</i>	Paula Fox (author)	Literature	970
<i>I Lay My Stitches Down: Poems of American Slavery</i>	Cynthia Grady (author)	Poetry	990
<i>Many Thousand Gone: African Americans from Slavery to Freedom</i>	Virginia Hamilton (author)	Informational	990
<i>Stolen into Slavery: The True Story of Solomon Northup, Free Black Man</i>	Judith Fradin (author)	Informational	1060
<i>Hand in Hand: Ten Black Men Who Changed America</i>	Andrea Davis Pinkney (author)	Informational	1080*
<i>To Be a Slave</i>	Julius Lester (author)	Informational	1080

\*Lexile based on a conversion from Accelerated Reading level



Title	Author And Illustrator	Text Type	Lexile Measure
<b>Lexile text measures within Grade 6–8 band level (925–1185L)</b>			
<i>Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass: The Story Behind an American Friendship</i>	Russell Freedman (author)	Informational	1110
<i>Traveling the Freedom Road</i>	Linda Osborne (author)	Informational	1120
<i>Harriet Tubman, Secret Agent: How Daring Slaves and Free Blacks Spied for the Union During the Civil War</i>	Thomas Allen (author)	Informational	1120
<b>Lexile text measures above band level (over 1185L)</b>			
<i>Freedom Roads: Searching for the Underground Railroads</i>	Joyce Hansen (author)	Informational	1190*
<i>Dred Scott v. Sanford: Slavery and Freedom Before the American Civil War</i>	Amy Van Zee (author)	Informational	1190‡

Lexile® is a trademark of MetaMetrics, Inc., and is registered in the United States and abroad. Copyright © 2013 MetaMetrics.

\*Lexile based on a conversion from Accelerated Reading level

‡Book content may have higher-maturity-level text

Created by Expeditionary Learning, on behalf of Public Consulting Group, Inc.  
© Public Consulting Group, Inc., with a perpetual license granted to Expeditionary Learning Outward Bound, Inc.