



EXPEDITIONARY
LEARNING

Grade 8: Module 1

Recommended Texts



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The list below includes both literary and informational texts with a range of Lexile® text measures about Vietnam and the fall of Saigon. This provides appropriate independent reading for each student to help build content knowledge about this topic. 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 that the Common Core Learning Standards (CCLS) demand.

Where possible, texts in languages other than English also are provided. Texts for the Grade 8 modules are categorized into four Lexile measures that correspond to Common Core Bands: Grade 4–5 band, Grade 6 band, Grade 6–8 band, and above 8th Grade. Note, however, that Lexile(R) 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)

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

Title	Author And Illustrator	Text Type	Lexile Measure
Lexile text measures in Grade 4–5 band level (740L-925L)			
<i>Last Airlift: A Vietnamese Orphan's Rescue from War</i>	Marsha Forchuk Skrypuch (author)	Informational	670
<i>All the Broken Pieces</i>	Ann E. Burg (author)	Literature	680
<i>A Million Shades of Gray</i>	Cynthia Kadohota (author)	Literature	700
<i>Cracker! The Best Dog in Vietnam</i>	Cynthia Kadohata (author)	Literature	730
<i>Why Vietnamese Immigrants Came to America</i>	Lewis K. Parker (author)	Informational	750*
<i>Noodle Pie</i>	Ruth Starke (author)	Informational	770
<i>Goodbye, Vietnam</i>	Gloria Whelan (author)	Literature	810



Title	Author And Illustrator	Text Type	Lexile Measure
Lexile text measures in Grade 4–5 band level (740–925L)			
<i>Goodbye, Vietnam</i>	Gloria Whelan (author)	Literature	810
<i>Year of Impossible Goodbyes</i>	Sook Nyul Choi (author)	Literature	840
<i>Echoes of the White Giraffe</i>	Sook Nyul Choi (author)	Literature	870
<i>The Lotus Seed</i>	Sherry Garland (author)	Literature	880
Lexile text measures within Grade 6 band level (925L–1185L)			
<i>Escape from Saigon: How a Vietnam War Orphan Became an American Boy</i>	Andrea Warren (author)	Biography	930
<i>Hearts of Sorrow: Vietnamese-American Lives</i>	James Freeman (author)	Informational	930
<i>Vietnam Veterans Memorial</i>	Natalie M. Rosinsky (author)	Informational	940
<i>The Fall of Saigon</i>	Mary Englar (author)	Informational	940
<i>Vietnamese in America</i>	Lori Coleman (author)	Informational	940
<i>Refugees & Asylum Seekers</i>	Dave Dalton (author)	Informational	940
<i>Vietnam</i>	Charlotte Guillain (author)	Informational	950*
Lexile text measures within grade 6–8 band level (925L–1185L)			
<i>The Land I Lost: Adventures of a Boy in Vietnam</i>	Quang Nhuong Huynh (author)	Biography/Literature	1090
<i>Migration and Refugees</i>	Quang Nhuong Huynh (author)	Biography/Literature	1090
<i>Vietnamese American</i>	John F. Grabowski (author)	Informational	1100



Title	Author And Illustrator	Text Type	Lexile Measure
<i>When Heaven and Earth Changed Places: A Vietnamese Woman's Journey from War to Peace</i>	Le Ly Hayslip with Jay Wurts (authors)	Historical Biography	1100
<i>The Vietnam War</i>	Cath Senker (author)	Informational	1110*
<i>Water Buffalo Days: Growing up in Vietnam</i>	Quang Nhuong Huynh (author)	Literature	1120
<i>Refugees</i>	Clarissa Aykroyd (author)	Informational	1150
Lexile text measures above band level (over 1185L)			
<i>10,000 Days of Thunder: A History of the Vietnam War</i>	Philip Caputo (author)	Informational	1210
<i>The Vietnamese Americans</i>	Hien Duc Do (author)	Informational	1340
<i>The Vietnamese Boat People: 1954 and 1975-1992</i>	Nghia M Vo (author)	Informational	NoLXL
<i>Boat People: Personal Stories from the Vietnamese Exodus 1975-1996</i>	Carina Hoang (editor)	Informational	NoLXL
<i>Strangers from a Different Shore: A History of Asian Americans</i>	Ronald Takaki (author)	Informational	No LXL (AD)
<i>Voices of Vietnamese Boat People: Nineteen Narratives of Escape and Survival</i>	Mary Terrell Cargill and Jade Quang Huynh (editors)	Biography	NoLXL (AD)
<i>The Vietnamese</i>	Michelle Houle (author)	Informational	NoLXL (YA)
<i>Weeping Under This Same Moon</i>	Jana Laiz (author)	Literature	NoLXL (YA)

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* This book must be ordered through this website: <http://waterforsudan.squarespace.com/wfss-childrens-book/>