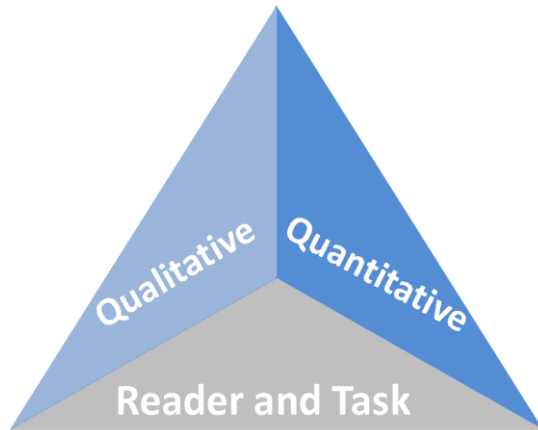


Standard 10: Range, Quality, and Complexity of Student Reading K–5

Measuring Text Complexity: Three Factors



- Qualitative evaluation of the text:** Levels of meaning, structure, language conventionality and clarity, and knowledge demands
- Quantitative evaluation of the text:** Readability measures and other scores of text complexity
- Matching reader to text and task:** Reader variables (such as motivation, knowledge, and experiences) and task variables (such as purpose and the complexity generated by the task assigned and the questions posed)
- Note:** More detailed information on text complexity and how it is measured is contained in Appendix A

Range of Text Types for K–5

Students in grades K-5 apply the Reading standards to the following range of text types, with texts selected from a broad range of cultures and periods.

Literature			Informational Text
Stories	Drama	Poetry	Literary Nonfiction and Historical, Scientific, and Technical Texts
Includes children’s adventure stories, folktales, legends, fables, fantasy, realistic fiction, and myth	Includes staged dialogue and brief familiar scenes	Includes nursery rhymes and the subgenres of the narrative poem, limerick, and free verse poem	Includes biographies and autobiographies; books about history, social studies, science, and the arts; technical texts, including directions, forms, and information displayed in graphs, charts, or maps; and digital sources on a range of topics

Text Illustrating the Complexity, Quality, and Range of Student Reading K–5

	Literature: Stories, Dramas, Poetry	Informational Texts: Literary Nonfiction and Historical, Scientific, and Technical Texts
K [†]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Over in the Meadow</i> by John Langstaff (traditional) (c1800)* • <i>A Boy, a Dog, and a Frog</i> by Mercer Mayer (1967) • <i>Pancakes for Breakfast</i> by Tomie DePaola (1978) • <i>A Story, A Story</i> by Gail E. Haley (1970)* • <i>Kitten’s First Full Moon</i> by Kevin Henkes (2004)* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>My Five Senses</i> by Alikei (1962)** • <i>Truck</i> by Donald Crews (1980) • <i>I Read Signs</i> by Tana Hoban (1987) • <i>What Do You Do With a Tail Like This?</i> by Steve Jenkins and Robin Page (2003)* • <i>Amazing Whales!</i> by Sarah L. Thomson (2005)*
1 [†]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Mix a Pancake” by Christina G. Rossetti (1893)** • <i>Mr. Popper’s Penguins</i> by Richard Atwater (1938)* • <i>Little Bear</i> by Else Holmelund Minarik, illustrated by Maurice Sendak (1957)** • <i>Frog and Toad Together</i> by Arnold Lobel (1971)** • <i>Hi! Fly Guy</i> by Tedd Arnold (2006) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>A Tree Is a Plant</i> by Clyde Robert Bulla, illustrated by Stacey Schuett (1960)** • <i>Starfish</i> by Edith Thacher Hurd (1962) • <i>Follow the Water from Brook to Ocean</i> by Arthur Dorros (1991)** • <i>From Seed to Pumpkin</i> by Wendy Pfeffer, illustrated by James Graham Hale (2004)* • <i>How People Learned to Fly</i> by Fran Hodgkins and True Kelley (2007)*
2–3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Who Has Seen the Wind?” by Christina G. Rossetti (1893) • <i>Charlotte’s Web</i> by E. B. White (1952)* • <i>Sarah, Plain and Tall</i> by Patricia MacLachlan (1985) • <i>Tops and Bottoms</i> by Janet Stevens (1995) • <i>Poppleton in Winter</i> by Cynthia Rylant, illustrated by Mark Teague (2001) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>A Medieval Feast</i> by Alikei (1983) • <i>From Seed to Plant</i> by Gail Gibbons (1991) • <i>The Story of Ruby Bridges</i> by Robert Coles (1995)* • <i>A Drop of Water: A Book of Science and Wonder</i> by Walter Wick (1997) • <i>Moonshot: The Flight of Apollo 11</i> by Brian Floca (2009)
4–5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland</i> by Lewis Carroll (1865) • “Casey at the Bat” by Ernest Lawrence Thayer (1888) • <i>The Black Stallion</i> by Walter Farley (1941) • “Zlateh the Goat” by Isaac Bashevis Singer (1984) • <i>Where the Mountain Meets the Moon</i> by Grace Lin (2009) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Discovering Mars: The Amazing Story of the Red Planet</i> by Melvin Berger (1992) • <i>Hurricanes: Earth’s Mightiest Storms</i> by Patricia Lauber (1996) • <i>A History of US</i> by Joy Hakim (2005) • <i>Horses</i> by Seymour Simon (2006) • <i>Quest for the Tree Kangaroo: An Expedition to the Cloud Forest of New Guinea</i> by Sy Montgomery (2006)

* Read-aloud

**Read-along

[†]Children at the kindergarten and grade 1 levels should be expected to read texts independently that have been specifically written to correlate to their reading level and their word knowledge. Many of the titles listed above are meant to supplement carefully structured independent reading with books to read along with a teacher or that are read aloud to students to build knowledge and cultivate a joy in reading.

Note: Given space limitations, the illustrative texts listed above are meant only to show individual titles that are representative of a wide range of topics and genres. (See Appendix B for excerpts of these and other texts illustrative of K–5 text complexity, quality, and range.) At a curricular or instructional level, within and across grade levels, texts need to be selected around topics or themes that generate knowledge and allow students to study those topics or themes in depth. On the next page is an example of progressions of texts building knowledge across grade levels.

Staying on Topic Within a Grade and Across Grades: How to Build Knowledge Systematically in English Language Arts K–5

Building knowledge systematically in English language arts is like giving children various pieces of a puzzle in each grade that, over time, will form one big picture. At a curricular or instructional level, texts—within and across grade levels—need to be selected around topics or themes that systematically develop the knowledge base of students. Within a grade level, there should be an adequate number of titles on a single topic that would allow children to study that topic for a sustained period. The knowledge children have learned about particular topics in early grade levels should then be expanded and developed in subsequent grade levels to ensure an increasingly deeper understanding of these topics. Children in the upper elementary grades will generally be expected to read these texts independently and reflect on them in writing. However, children in the early grades (particularly K–2) should participate in rich, structured conversations with an adult in response to the written texts that are read aloud, orally comparing and contrasting as well as analyzing and synthesizing, in the manner called for by the Standards.

Preparation for reading complex informational texts should begin at the very earliest elementary school grades. What follows is one example that uses domain-specific nonfiction titles across grade levels to illustrate how curriculum designers and classroom teachers can infuse the English language arts block with rich, age-appropriate content knowledge and vocabulary in history/social studies, science, and the arts. Having students listen to informational read-alouds in the early grades helps lay the necessary foundation for students’ reading and understanding of increasingly complex texts on their own in subsequent grades.

Exemplar Texts on a Topic Across Grades	K	1	2–3	4–5
<p>The Human Body</p> <p>Students can begin learning about the human body starting in kindergarten and then review and extend their learning during each subsequent grade.</p>	<p>The five senses associated body parts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>My Five Senses</i> by Aliko (1989) • <i>Hearing</i> by Maria Rius (1985) • <i>Sight</i> by Maria Rius (1985) • <i>Taste</i> by Maria Rius (1985) • <i>Touch</i> by Maria Rius (1985) <p>Taking care of your body: Overview (hygiene, diet, exercise, rest)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>My Amazing Body: A first Look at Health & Fitness</i> by Pat Thomas (2001) • <i>Get Up and Go!</i> By Nancy Carlson (2008) • <i>Go Wash Up</i> by Doering Tourville (2008) • <i>Sleep</i> by Paul Showers (1997) • <i>Fuel the Body</i> by Doering Tourville (2008) 	<p>Introduction to the systems of the human body and associated body parts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Under Your Skin: Your Amazing Body</i> by Mick Manning (2007) • <i>Me and My Amazing body</i> by Joan Sweeney (1999) • <i>The Human Body</i> by Gallimard Jeunesse (2007) • <i>The Busy Body Book</i> by Lizzy Rockwell (2008) • <i>First Encyclopedia of the Human Body</i> by Fiona Chandler (2004) <p>Taking care of your body: Germs, diseases, and preventing illness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Germs Make Me Sick</i> by Marilyn Berger (1995) • <i>Tiny Life on Your Body</i> by Christine Taylor Butler (2005) • <i>Germ Stories</i> by Christine Taylor Butler (2005) • <i>Germ Stories</i> by Arthur Kornberg (2007) • <i>All About Scabs</i> by Genichiro Yagu (1998) 	<p>Digestive and excretory systems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>What Happens to a Hamburger</i> by Paul Showers (1985) • <i>The Digestive System</i> by Rebecca L. Johnson (2006) • <i>The Digestive System</i> by Kristin Petrie (2007) <p>Taking care of your body: Healthy eating and nutrition</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Good Enough to Eat</i> by Lizzy Rockwell (1999) • <i>Showdown at the Food Pyramid</i> by Rex Barron (2004) <p>Muscular, skeletal, and nervous systems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Mighty Muscular and Skeletal Systems</i> Crabtree Publishing (2009) • <i>Muscles</i> by Seymour Simon (1998) • <i>Bones</i> by Seymour Simon (1998) • <i>The Astounding Nervous System</i> Crabtree Publishing (2009) • <i>The Nervous System</i> by Joelle Riley (2004) 	<p>Circulatory system</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Heart</i> by Seymour Simon (2006) • <i>The Heart and Circulation</i> by Carol Ballard (2005) • <i>The Circulatory System</i> by Kristin Petrie (2007) • <i>The Amazing Circulatory System</i> by John Burstein (2009) <p>Respiratory system</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Lungs</i> by Seymour Simon (2007) • <i>The Respiratory System</i> by Susan Glass (2004) • <i>The Respiratory System</i> by Kristin Petrie (2007) <p>Endocrine system</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Exciting Endocrine System</i> by Rebecca Olien (2006) • <i>The Exciting Endocrine System</i> by John Burstein (2009)