



Mississippi Text Exemplar List

2019

Grades 5-12

Mission Statement

The Mississippi Department of Education is dedicated to student success including the improvement of student achievement in English Language Arts in order to produce citizens who are capable of making complex decisions, solving complex problems, and communicating fluently in a global society. The Mississippi College- and Career-Readiness Standards provide a consistent, clear understanding of what students are expected to know and be able to do by the end of each grade level or course. The standards are designed to be robust and relevant to the real world, reflecting the knowledge and skills that students need for success in college and careers and to compete in the global economy.

Purpose

The primary purpose of this document is to provide teachers with a selection of text to utilize in class instruction. This list is by no means exhaustive. It is **not** a required reading list for Mississippi students, nor is it a suggested reading list. The list serves as a sample list of texts that have been used within the state of Mississippi across grades 5-12.

These items were considered when selections were made:

Appropriate age and grade-level text complexity

Appropriate age and grade level content

Value of literature and informational text to classroom instruction

Recommendations of Mississippi English Language Arts teachers and specialist.

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Director, Office of Human Resources Mississippi Department of Education

5th Grade

Title	Author	Lexile	ATOS	Interest level	Text Type & Notes
Fictional Text					
Alabama Moon	Watt Key	720L	4.1	5-7	L
Blood on the River	Elisa Carbone	820L	5.3	5-7	L
Brian's Winter	Gary Paulsen	1140L	5.9	5-7	L
Bridge to Terabithia	Katherine Patterson	810L	4.6	5-6	L
Shiloh	Phyllis Reynolds Naylor	890L	4.4	4-7	L
Bud, Not Buddy	Christopher Paul Curtis	950L	5.0	5-6	L
Esperanza Rising	Pam Munoz Ryan	750L	5.3	5-7	L
Frindle	Andrew Clements	830L	5.4	5-7	L
Hatchet	Gary Paulsen	1020L	5.7	5-7	L
Holes	Louis Sachar	660L	4.6	5-6	L
How to Steal a Dog	Barbara O'Connor	700L	4.0	5-6	L
In the Year of the Boar and Jackie Robinson	Bette Bao Lord	730L	4.6	5-7	L
The Lion, Witch, and the Wardrobe	CS Lewis	940L	4.9	5-7	L
Maniac Magee	Jerry Spinelli	820L	4.7	5-6	L

My Side of the Mountain	Jean Craighead George	810L	5.2	5-7	L
Number the Stars	Lois Lowry	670L	4.5	5-7	L
Sign of the Beaver	Elizabeth George Speare	770L	4.9	5-7	L
Souder	William Howard Armstrong	900L	5.8	5-7	L
Summer of the Swans	Betsy Cromer Byars	830L	4.9	5-7	L
The City of Ember	Jeanne DePrau	680L	5.0	5-7	L
The Lightning Thief	Rick Riordan	740L	4.7	5-7	L
The Tiger Rising	Kate DiCamillo	590L	4.0	4-6	L
The Westing Game	Ellen Raskin	750L	5.3	5-7	L
The Whipping Boy	Sid Fleischman	570L	3.9	4-6	L
Tuck Everlasting	Natalie Babbitt	770L	5.0	5-7	L
Walk Two Moons	Sharon Creech	770L	4.9	4-7	L
Where the Mountain Meets the Moon	Grace Lin	810L	5.5	5-7	L
Wild Life	Cynthia DeFelice	860L	5.5	5-7	L

Informational Text					
Christopher Columbus Sailing to a New World	Adrianna Morganelli	IG1110L	7.2	Middle Grades	I
Civil War Spies	Craig Sodaro	820L	5.8	Middle Grades	I
Cowboys of the Wild West	Russell Freedman	1160L	6.7	Middle Grades	I
Freedom River	Doreen Rappaport	600L	3.3	4-6	I
Hana's Suitcase	Karen Levin	730L	5.0	4-9	I
I Have a Dream: The Story of Martin Luther King	Margaret Davidson	680L	4.8	5-7	I
If You Lived the Time of Martin Luther King	Ellen Levine	810L	5.7	Lower Grades	I
If You Lived with Sioux Indians	Ann McGovern	600L	4.6	Lower Grades	I
Mandela: From the Life of the South African Statesman	Floyd Cooper	950L	5.6	4-6	I
Rosa	Nikki Giovanni	800L	4.9	4-6	I
Shh! We're Writing the Constitution	Jean Fritz	NA	7.1	Middle Grades	I
The Story of Ruby Bridges	Robert Coles	AD800L	4.4	Lower Grades	I
We are the Ship: The Story of the Negro Baseball League	Kadir Nelson	900L	5.9	5-7	I
When Marian Sang	Pam Munzo Ryan	920L	5.2	5-7	I
Who's That Stepping on Plymouth Rock	Jean Fritz	NA	5.0	5-7	I

6th Grade

Title	Author	Lexile	ATOS	Interest level	Text Type & Notes
Fictional Text					
A Wrinkle in Time	Madeleine L'Engle	740L	4.7	Middle Grades	L
Boy in Striped Pajamas	John Boyne	1000L	5.8	Middle Grades	L
Chains	Laurie Halse Anderson	780L	5.2	Middle Grades	L
Dragonwings	Laurence Yep	870L	5.3	Middle +	L
Fever, 1793	Laurie Halse Anderson	580L	4.4	Middle +	L
Freak the Mighty	Rodman Philbrick	930L	5.5	Upper 9-12	L
Hope was Here	Joan Bauer	710L	5.1	Middle Grades	L
Messenger	Lois Lowry	720L	4.9	Middle +	L
Posted	John David Anderson	750L	5.1	Middle Grades	L
Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry	Mildred D. Taylor	920L	5.7	Middle Grades	L
Tale of the Mandarin Ducks	Katherine Paterson	AD930L	5.6	4-6	L
The Green Book	Jill Paton Walsh	980L	5.5	Middle Grades	L
Wonder	RJ Palacio	790L	4.8	Middle Grades	L

Informational Text

Children of the Dust Bowl	Jerry Stanley	1120L	6.8	Middle Grades	I
Four Perfect Pebbles: A Holocaust Story	Lila Perl	1080L	7.3	Middle Grades	I
How they Croaked	Georgia Bragg	950L	6.8	Middle Grades	I
Indian Chiefs	Russell Freedman	1030L	7.3	Middle Grades	I
Soul Surfer	Bethany Hamilton	960L	6.0	Middle +	I
The Great Fire	Jim Murphy	1130L	7.6	Middle +	I

7th Grade

Title	Author	Lexile	ATOS	Interest level	Text Type & Notes
Fictional Text					
A Light in the Forest	Conrad Richter	870L	5.5	Middle Grades	L
A Tale of Two Cities	Charles Dickens	620L	3.6	Middle Grades	L
Chains	Laurie Halse Anderson	780L	5.2	Middle Grades	L
Hatchet	Gray Paulsen	1020L	5.7	Middle Grades	L
My Brother Sam is Dead	James Lincoln Collier	770L	4.9	Middle Grades	L
Out of the Dust	Karen Hesse	1040L	5.3	Middle Grades	L
The Crystal Cave	Mary Stewart	900L	5.7	7-10	L
The Giver	Lois Lowry	760L	5.7	Middle Grades	L
The Great Wide Sea	M.H. Herlong	660L	4.1	Middle Grades	L
The Legend of Sleepy Hollow	Washington Irving	560L	11.0	Upper 9-12	L
Where the Red Fern Grows	Wilson Rawls	700L	4.9	Middle Grades	L
Informational Text					
A Night to Remember	Walter Lord	950L	7.0	Upper 8-10	I
Chasing Lincoln's Killer	James Swason	1060L	7.5	Middle +	I
Harriet Tubman: Conductor on the Underground Railroad	Ann Petry	1000L	6.6	Middle Grades	I

The Diary of Anne Frank	Anne Frank	1020L	6.5	Middle +	I
Travels with Charley: In Search of America	John Steinbeck	1010L	6.7	Upper 8-10	I

8th Grade

Title	Author	Lexile	ATOS	Interest level	Text Type & Notes
Fictional Text					
A Tree Grows in Brooklyn	Betty Smith	810L	5.8	Upper 9-12	L
Across Five Aprils	Irene Hunt	1100L	6.6	Middle Grades	L
Anthem	Ayn Rand	880L	6.1	Upper 9-12	L
Code Talkers	Joseph Bruchac	910L	4.8	Middle Grades	L
Divergent	Veronica Roth	HL700L	4.8	Upper 9-12	L
Gathering Blue	Lois Lowry	680L	5.0	Middle +	L
Good Old Boy	Willie Morris	1190L	NA	Middle Grades	L
Monster	Walter Dean Myers	670L	5.1	Upper 9-12	L
Nothing but the Truth	Avi	NP	3.6	Upper 9-12	L
The Outsiders	SE Hinton	750L	4.7	Upper 9-12	L
The Hobbit	JRR Tolkien	1000L	6.6	Upper 9-12	L
The House on Mango Street	Sandra Cisneros	870L	4.5	Upper 9-12	L
The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde	Robert Louis Stevenson	HL560L	9.4	Middle Grades	L

Informational Text					
Freakonomics: A Rogue Economist Explores the Hidden Side of Everything	Steven D. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner	NA	NA	Middle +	I
Freedom Walkers	Russell Freedman	1110L	7.7	Middle Grades	I
Narrative of the Life of Fredrick Douglass: An America Slave	Fredrick Douglass		7.9	Upper 9-12	I
Outliers	Malcolm Gladwell	1080L	NA	Upper 9-12	I
The Blind Side	Michael Lewis	980L	7.2	Upper 9-12	I
The Good, the Bad, and the Barbie: A Doll's History and Her Impact on Us	Tanya Lee Stone	1120L	7.5	Middle Grades	I
The Great Fire	Jim Murphy	1130L	7.6	Upper 9-12	I
The Lost Art of the Great Speech One: How to Write One-How to Deliver it	Richard Downs	NA	NA	Middle +	I
The Smart Aleck's Guide to American History	Adam Selzer	1200L	8.5	Middle Grades	I
The Story of My Life	Helen Keller	1090L	6.8	Upper 9-12	I

9th Grade

Title	Author	Lexile	ATOS	Interest level	Text Type & Notes
Fictional Text					
Animal Farm	George Orwell	1170L	7.3	Upper 9-12	L
Ethan Frome	Edith Wharton	820L	7.6	Upper 9-12	L
Lord of the Flies	William Golding	770L	5.0	Upper 9-12	L
Mythology	Edith Hamilton	1040L	8.2	Upper 9-12	L
Odyssey	Homer	1050L	10.3	Upper 9-12	L
Of Mice and Men	John Steinbeck	480L	4.5	Upper 9-12	L
Romeo and Juliet	William Shakespeare	RP	8.6	Upper 9-12	L
The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn	Mark Twain	980L	6.6	Middle +	L
The Fellowship of the Ring	J.R.R Tolkien	860L	6.1	Upper 9-12	L
To Kill a Mockingbird	Harper Lee	790L	5.6	Upper 9-12	L
Watership Down	Richard Adams	880L	6.2	Upper 9-12	L
Informational Text					
Benjamin Franklin: An American Life	Isaacson Walter			Upper 8-12	I
Farewell to Manzanar	Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston and James D. Houston	1040L	6.7	Middle Grades	I

Into Thin Air	Jon Krakauer	1320L	8.9	Upper 9-12	I
Night	Elie Wiesel	570L	4.8	Upper 9-12	I
Stiff: The Curious Lives of Human Cadavers	Mary Roach	1230L	9.4	Upper 9-12	I
The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Rebecca Skloot	1140L	8.0	Upper 9-12	I
Why We Can't Wait	Martin Luther King Jr.	1200L	10.4	Upper 9-12	I

10th Grade

Title	Author	Lexile	ATOS	Interest level	Text Type & Notes
Fictional Text					
A Separate Peace	John Knowles	1030L	6.9	Upper 9-12	L
All American Boys	Jason Reynolds and Brendan Kiely	HL770L	4.9	Upper 9-12	L
Antigone	Sophocles	1090L	5.2	Upper 9-12	L
Catcher in the Rye	JD Salinger	790L	4.7	Upper 9-12	L
Dune	Frank Herbert	800L	5.7	Upper 9-12	L
Fahrenheit 451	Ray Bradbury	800L	5.2	Upper 9-12	L
Julius Caesar	William Shakespeare	810L	10.8	Upper 9-12	L
The Book Thief	Markus Zusak	730L	5.1	Upper 9-12	L
The Glass Menagerie	Tennessee Williams	NP	5.3	Upper 9-12	L
The Kite Runner	Khaled Hosseini	840L	5.2	Upper 9-12	L
The Secret Life of Bees	Sue Monk Kidd	840L	5.7	Upper 9-12	L
Informational Text					
7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens	Stephen Covey	870L		Upper 10-12	I
Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee	Dee Brown	1160L	7.9	Upper 9-12	I
Isaac's Storm	Erik Larson	1020L	8.1	Upper 9-12	I

Letter from Birmingham Jail	Martin Luther King Jr.			Upper 9-12	I
Phineas Gage: A Gruesome but True Story about Brain Science	John Fleischman	1030L	7.4	Upper 9-12	I
The Duel	Judith St. George	1040L	7.5	Upper 9-12	I
The Hot Zone	Richard Preston	1030L	7.3	Upper 9-12	I

11th Grade

Title	Author	Lexile	ATOS	Interest level	Text Type & Notes
Fictional Text					
A Doll's House	Henrik Ibsen	NP	5.9	Upper 9-12	L
A Lesson Before Dying	Ernest Gaines	750L	4.4	Upper 9-12	L
A Raisin in the Sun	Lorraine Hansberry	NP	5.5	Upper 9-12	L
Adventures of Augie March	Saul Bellow	1040L	6.8	Upper 9-12	L
Fences	August Wilson	NP	3.5	Upper 9-12	L
Hamlet	William Shakespeare	850L	10.5	Upper 9-12	L
House Made of Dawn	N. Scott Momaday	970L	6.2	Upper 9-12	L
No County for Old Men	Cormac McCarthy	970L	NA	Upper 9-12	L
The Awakening	Kate Chopin	960L	8.5	Upper 9-12	L
The Crucible	Arthur Miller	NP	4.9	Upper 9-12	L
The Great Gatsby	F. Scott Fitzgerald	820L	7.3	Upper 9-12	L
The Jungle	Upton Sinclair	1170L	8.0	Upper 9-12	L
The Scarlet Letter	Nathaniel Hawthorne	940L	11.7	Upper 9-12	L
Their Eyes Were Watching God	Zora Neale Hurston	890L	5.6	Upper 9-12	L

Informational Text

Every Bone Tells a Story	Jill Rubalcaba	1010L	7.6	Upper 9-12	I
Hidden Figures	Margot Lee Shetterly	980L	9.7	Upper 9-12	I
I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings	Maya Angelo	1010L	6.7	Upper 9-12	I
In Cold Blood	Truman Capote	1040L	7.1	Upper 9-12	I
The Tipping Point	Malcolm Gladwell	1160L	9.1	Upper 9-12	I

12th Grade

Title	Author	Lexile	ATOS	Interest level	Text Type & Notes
Fictional Text					
Beloved	Toni Morrison	870L	6.0	Upper 9-12	L
Beowulf	Various	1070L	10.4	Upper 9-12	L
Candide	Voltaire	1010L	7.3	Upper 9-12	L
Frankenstein	Mary Shelley	790L	12.4	Upper 11-12	L
Heart of Darkness	Joseph Conrad	970L	9.0	Upper 9-12	L
Jane Eyre	Charlotte Bronte	810L	7.9	Upper 9-12	L
King Lear	William Shakespeare	690L	8.8	Upper 9-12	L
Life of Pi	Yann Martel	570L	5.7	Upper 9-12	L
Mrs. Dalloway	Virginia Woolf	950L	7.2	Upper 9-12	L
Othello	William Shakespeare	700L	8.4	Upper 9-12	L
Pride and Prejudice	Jane Austin	1070L	12.0	Upper 11-12	L
Pygmalion	George Bernard Shaw	NP	7.0	Upper 9-12	L
Silas Marner	George Elliott	1260L	9.7	Upper 9-12	L
Tess of the d'Urbervilles	Thomas Hardy	1110L	9.5	Upper 9-12	L
The Canterbury Tales	Geoffrey Chaucer	NP	8.1	Upper 9-12	L

The Hate U Give	Angie Thomas	HL590L	3.9	Upper 9-12	L
The Importance of Being Ernest	Oscar Wilde	NP	4.5	Upper 9-12	L
The Metamorphosis	Franz Kafka	1340L	10.5	Upper 10-12	L
The Power of One	Bryce Courtenay	940L	6.9	Upper 9-12	L
The Runaway Jury	John Grisham	930L	8.0	Upper 9-12	L
The Tempest	William Shakespeare	980L	9.0	Upper 9-12	L
Things Fall Apart	Chinua Achebe	890L	6.2	Upper 9-12	L
Wuthering Heights	Emily Bronte	960L	11.3	Upper 9-12	L
Informational Text					
Walden	Henry David Thoreau	1340L	8.7	Upper 9-12	I
Steve Jobs: The Man Who Thought Different	Karen Blumenthal	1110L	8.2	Upper 9-12	I
The Family Romanov	Candace Fleming	950L	7.2	Upper 9-12	I
Charles Dickens and the Street Children of London	Andrea Warren	1160L	8.2	Upper 9-12	I
1968	Mark Kurlansky	NC1310L	9.9	Upper 9-12	I