

Houghton Mifflin Reading California

Reading Levels of Anthology Selections

Grades 1-6

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This document provides reading levels for Anthology selections for Grades 1-6 of *Houghton Mifflin Reading California*. For each selection the following information is provided:

- Overall Readability
- Type of Text
- Fluency Level for Differentiated Instruction
- Factors Affecting Readability
- Readability Formula Scores
- DRP (Degrees of Reading Power) Scores
- DRA (Developmental Reading Assessment) Levels
- Lexile Levels

Overall Readability indicates the grade level at which most students making regular progress as readers should be able to read the selection with limited support. This assessment of reading level is based on multiple factors, including:

- Length of the Selection
- Type of Text (fiction, nonfiction, expository, etc.)
- Text Density (amount of text on each page)
- Text Structure
- Difficulty of Vocabulary and Concepts
- Illustration Support
- Instructional Support Provided in Houghton Mifflin Reading

Fluency Level for Differentiated Instruction are also provided for each selection. These levels are presented alphabetically ranging from A to Z. Approximate grade level correspondences for these reading levels are as follows:

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Reading Levels</u>
Kindergarten	A B C
Grade 1	B C D E F G H I J
Grade 2	H I J K L M
Grade 3	K L M N O
Grade 4	N O P Q R S T
Grade 5	S T U V W
Grade 6	U V W X Y

Fluency Levels for Differentiated Instruction for Anthology selections in Houghton Mifflin Reading have been established according to criteria based on those suggested in Irene C. Fountas and Gay Su Pinnell, *Matching Books to Readers*. More detailed information on these criteria can be found in Houghton Mifflin Reading's *Cumulative List of Leveled Books*. The leveling process is a subjective one, and different individuals may select slightly different levels for the same book. Also, the difficulty that any given text presents to a young reader can be strongly affected by how the text is presented on the page. Fewer lines of type per page, together with strong illustrations, can make a selection much easier for young readers to access. For this reason, Fluency Levels for the same story may vary, and the level designated for an Anthology selection may differ from the level designated for the trade book in which the story was originally published.

At Grades 1 and 2, the Anthology selections are sequenced in ascending levels to support young readers' development. At Grades 3-6, selections are sequenced within themes and across each level. Within themes, the selections are generally ordered from easier to more difficult. Across the grade level, the themes become gradually more challenging as the year progresses. This structure provides scaffolding support, as with each new theme or topic students begin with an easier selection and then move to more difficult ones.

Readability Formula Scores are also presented. For Grades 1 and 2, scores have been derived using the Spache formula. Scores for Grades 3-6 are derived from the Harris-Jacobsen formulas of 1974 (Grades 3-5) and 1980 (Grade 6). Readability formulas are generally less accurate predictors of text difficulty than guided reading levels, because they are based only on quantifiable factors such sentence length and word counts. These formulas do not take into account such factors as how a text is organized or how well the author presents concepts that may be unfamiliar to young readers.

Reading levels can be helpful in selecting appropriate texts for readers at different stages of development, or for determining the level of support an individual student may need to access a reading selection. However, a leveling system does not assure that a student will or will not be successful reading a particular book. A reader who is interested in a topic and highly motivated to read about it may be able to read challenging books on this topic. A lower level book may not be read with success if it includes unfamiliar topics or vocabulary, or if the reader has little interest in the topic.

**Houghton Mifflin Reading
Readability for Grade 3 Anthology**

Title	Overall Readability	Type of Text	Fluency Level for Differentiated Instruction	Factors Affecting Readability	Readability Formula Score	DRP Score	DRA Level	Lexile Level
Theme 1: Off to Adventure								
The Lost and Found	late grade 2	fantasy	K	little text on each page; easy narrative structure; fantasy elements and scene shifts; strong picture support	2.9	45.1	20	350
The Ballad of Mulan	early grade 3	folk tale	L	little text per page; historical tale in unfamiliar setting and culture; some challenging vocabulary	3.3	51.5	24	610
The Waterfall	early grade 3	realistic fiction	L	first-person narrative with dialogue; simple vocabulary; strong picture support	3.5	47.6	24	520

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Readability for Grade 3 Anthology**

Title	Overall Readability	Type of Text	Fluency Level for Differentiated Instruction	Factors Affecting Readability	Readability Formula Score	DRP Score	DRA Level	Lexile Level
Theme 2: Celebrating Traditions								
The Keeping Quilt	early grade 3	personal narrative	K	possibly unfamiliar culture; some difficult names; little text per page; strong picture support	3.3	53.9	20	730
Anthony Reynoso	early grade 3	narrative nonfiction	L	possibly unfamiliar culture; some Spanish words and phrases; little text per page	3.3	48.0	24	560
The Talking Cloth	early grade 3	realistic fiction	M	simple family narrative with some challenging vocabulary; African words and names; strong picture support	3.4	48.0	28	550
Dancing Rainbows	mid grade 3	narrative nonfiction	M	possibly unfamiliar culture; some Native American terms; strong picture support	3.5	49.4	28	460

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Readability for Grade 3 Anthology**

Title	Overall Readability	Type of Text	Fluency Level for Differentiated Instruction	Factors Affecting Readability	Readability Formula Score	DRP Score	DRA Level	Lexile Level
Theme 3: Incredible Stories								
Dogzilla	mid grade 3	fantasy	L	little text per page; fantasy elements in text and art; tongue-in-cheek humor	3.5	57.0	24	740
The Mysterious Giant of Barletta	mid grade 3	folk tale	K	more text per page; Italian words and phrases; good picture support	3.4	50.4	20	580
Raising Dragons	mid grade 3	fantasy	M	easy narrative structure; varying sentence lengths; subtle humor; simple vocabulary	3.6	48.7	28	620
The Garden of Abdul Gasazi	mid grade 3	fantasy	M	more text per page; more exposition than dialogue; simple vocabulary	3.7	50.4	28	640
Theme 4: Animal Habitats								
Nights of the Pufflings	mid grade 3	narrative nonfiction	L	high interest nonfiction; some challenging Icelandic words; good picture support	3.6	56.3	24	780
Seal Surfer	mid grade 3	realistic fiction	M	some full pages of text; popular topic; section headings; some challenging vocabulary	3.7	52.1	28	700
Two Days in May	mid grade 3	realistic fiction	M		3.7	50.2	28	600

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Readability for Grade 3 Anthology**

Title	Overall Readability	Type of Text	Fluency Level for Differentiated Instruction	Factors Affecting Readability	Readability Formula Score	DRP Score	DRA Level	Lexile Level
Theme 5: Voyagers								
Across the Wide, Dark Sea	late grade 3	historical fiction	M	Several full-text pages; unfamiliar setting; scene shift; some specialized vocabulary	3.4	47.5	28	610
Yunmi and Halmoni's Trip	late grade 3	realistic fiction	M	possibly unfamiliar culture; scene shifts; strong picture support; some specialized vocabulary	3.5	51.2	28	700
Trapped by the Ice	late grade 3	narrative nonfiction	N	high-interest topic; strong narrative structure; chronological headings; several text full pages; some challenging vocabulary	3.9	55.3	30	790

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Readability for Grade 3 Anthology**

Title	Overall Readability	Type of Text	Fluency Level for Differentiated Instruction	Factors Affecting Readability	Readability Formula Score	DRP Score	DRA Level	Lexile Level
Theme 6: Smart Solutions								
Pepita Talks Twice	mid/late grade 3	realistic fiction	M	simple narrative structure; story told in English and Spanish; Spanish words and expressions in English version	3.2	45.9	28	480
Poppa's New Pants	late grade 3	realistic fiction	N	simple narrative structure; several characters introduced; subtle humor; simple vocabulary	3.6	49.7	30	670
Ramona Quimby, Age 8	late grade 3	realistic fiction	O	popular character; selection length; density of text; some challenging vocabulary	4.2	54.5	34	800

Houghton Mifflin Reading
Readability for Grade 4 Anthology

Title	Overall Readability	Type of Text	Fluency Level for Differentiated Instruction	Factors Affecting Readability	Readability Formula Score	DRP Score	DRA Level	Lexile Level
Theme 1: Journeys								
Akiak	late grade 3	fiction	M	little text per page; simple narrative structure; some unfamiliar names	3.8	49.1	28	530
Grandfather's Journey	early grade 4	personal narrative	N	little text per page; strong picture support; easy narrative structure; story scene shifts between US and Japan	3.9	50.2	30	620
Finding the Titanic	early grade 4	nonfiction	O	more text on each page; high-interest nonfiction; narrative shifts in time; some technical vocabulary	4.0	49.3	34	500
By the Shores of Silver Lake	early grade 4	historical fiction	O	full pages of text; historical narrative includes some difficult vocabulary, longer sentences	4.0	49.5	34	710
Theme 2: American Stories								
Tomás and the Library Lady	early grade 4	realistic fiction	M	most pages have limited text; narrative structure; includes words and sentences in Spanish	3.5	45.1	28	400
Tanya's Reunion	mid grade 4	realistic fiction	N	some pages of full text; simple family narrative with some challenging vocabulary	4.4	53.1	30	630
Boss of the Plains	mid grade 4	biography	O	little text on each page; some long sentences and specialized vocabulary	4.6	55.7	34	800
A Very Important Day	mid grade 4	realistic fiction	P	moderate text density; narrative makes frequent shifts to new characters; many unfamiliar names; long sentences	4.2	54.2	38	470

**Houghton Mifflin Reading
Readability for Grade 4 Anthology**

Title	Overall Readability	Type of Text	Fluency Level for Differentiated Instruction	Factors Affecting Readability	Readability Formula Score	DRP Score	DRA Level	Lexile Level
Theme 3: That's Amazing!								
The Stranger	early/mid grade 4	fantasy	N	little text on each page; strong picture support; easy narrative structure	4.3	49.8	30	590
Cendrillon	mid grade 4	fairytale	O	some pages of full text; strong picture support; some dialogue in idiomatic speech patterns; many French words and expressions	4.4	48.4	34	590
Heat Wave!	mid grade 4	tall tale	P	moderate text density; story has mock-serious tone and some challenging vocabulary; strong picture support	4.5	49.4	38	580
Theme 4: Problem Solvers								
My Name Is María Isabel	mid grade 4	realistic fiction	N	full pages of text; story scene shifts from home to school; cultural references may be unfamiliar	4.4	53.3	30	790
Marven of the Great North Woods	mid grade 4	realistic fiction	O	full pages of text; strong picture support; French words and expressions; some challenging vocabulary	4.5	51.6	34	700
The Last Dragon	mid grade 4	realistic fiction	P	moderate text density; simple narrative with frequent changes of scene; strong picture support	4.5	50.8	38	500
Sing to the Stars	mid grade 4	realistic fiction	P	strong picture support; simple narrative, simple vocabulary	4.6	50.4	38	570

**Houghton Mifflin Reading
Readability for Grade 4 Anthology**

Title	Overall Readability	Type of Text	Fluency Level for Differentiated Instruction	Factors Affecting Readability	Readability Formula Score	DRP Score	DRA Level	Lexile Level
Theme 5: Heroes								
Happy Birthday, Dr. King!	mid grade 4	realistic fiction	O	light to moderate text on each page; simple vocabulary; simple dialogue with little exposition; good picture support	3.8	48.1	34	400
Gloria Estefan	late grade 4	biography	Q	high-interest biographical narrative with shifting scenes and some challenging concepts; moderate picture support	4.7	54.6		800
Lou Gehrig: The Luckiest Man	late grade 4	biography	R	most pages have limited text; biographical narrative structure; some challenging vocabulary; minimal picture support	4.9	53.0	40	710
Theme 6: Nature: Friend and Foe								
Salmon Summer	late grade 4	nonfiction	R	moderate text density; straightforward narrative approach to unfamiliar subject; some challenging vocabulary	4.0	53.6	40	690
Wildfires	early grade 5	expository nonfiction	S	most pages full text; complex subject; some challenging and technical vocabulary; good picture support	5.2	56.1		900
Skylark	late grade 4	historical fiction	R	most pages full text; simple narrative style, mostly dialogue, little exposition; simple vocabulary	3.8	45.0	40	470

**Houghton Mifflin Reading
Readability for Grade 5 Anthology**

Title	Overall Readability	Type of Text	Fluency Level for Differentiated Instruction	Factors Affecting Readability	Readability Formula Score	DRP Score	DRA Level	Lexile Level
Theme 1: Nature's Fury								
Earthquake Terror	early grade 5	realistic fiction	S	several pages full text; narrative structure combines dialogue and exposition; good picture support	4.4	52.6		590
Eye of the Storm	early grade 5	narrative nonfiction	T	dense, two-column format with text broken by headings, pictures; some technical vocabulary; selection length	5.4	58.4	44	910
Volcanoes	early grade 5	expository nonfiction	T	few pages full text; high-interest but complex subject; scientific vocabulary; good illustration support	5.6	58.8	44	850
Theme 2: Give It All You've Got								
Michelle Kwan	early grade 5	auto-biography	S	several pages full text; some technical vocabulary; limited illustration support for subject	4.7	52.7		740
La Bamba	mid grade 5	realistic fiction	T	many pages full text; more exposition than dialogue; several Spanish words and phrases	5.2	55.7	44	830
The Fear Place	mid grade 5	realistic fiction	T	full pages of text; little dialogue; some specialized vocabulary; good picture support	5.4	56.9	44	740
Mae Jemison	mid grade 5	biography	U	chronological narrative structure with some dialogue; technical vocabulary; good picture support	5.8	64.0	44	880

**Houghton Mifflin Reading
Readability for Grade 5 Anthology**

Title	Overall Readability	Type of Text	Fluency Level for Differentiated Instruction	Factors Affecting Readability	Readability Formula Score	DRP Score	DRA Level	Lexile Level
Theme 3: Voices of the Revolution								
And Then What Happened, Paul Revere	mid grade 5	biography	S	moderate text density; many lengthy sentences; historical subject may be unfamiliar	4.9	54.7		790
Katie's Trunk	mid grade 5	historical fiction	T	light text on most pages; simple narrative structure with many short sentences; challenging historical setting and concepts	5.2	47.8	44	590
James Forten	mid grade 5	biography	U	historical narrative with several changes of scene; some specialized vocabulary; good illustration support	5.6	57.6	44	850
Theme 4: Person to Person								
Mariah Keeps Cool	middle 5	realistic fiction	S	simple vocabulary and sentence structure; selection length; frequent scene shifts	4.6	49.4		540
Mom's Best Friend	middle 5	narrative nonfiction	T	high-interest nonfiction; simple vocabulary; good picture support	4.7	50.6	44	670
Yang the Second	middle 5	realistic fiction	T	most pages have full text; moderate vocabulary; possibly unfamiliar culture	5.1	51.0	44	620
Dear Mr. Henshaw	middle 5	realistic fiction	U	simple first-person narrative with chronological headings; some challenging vocabulary	5.4	52.7	44	900

**Houghton Mifflin Reading
Readability for Grade 5 Anthology**

Title	Overall Readability	Type of Text	Fluency Level for Differentiated Instruction	Factors Affecting Readability	Readability Formula Score	DRP Score	DRA Level	Lexile Level
Theme 5: One Land, Many Trails								
A Boy Called Slow	middle 5	biography	S	several full pages of text; numerous Native American words and expression	4.6	51.8		760
Pioneer Girl	late grade 5	narrative nonfiction	U	interspersed diary quotes; most pages full text; good picture support	5.4	57.4	44	960
Black Cowboy, Wild Horses	late grade 5	biography	U	high-interest nonfiction; moderate text density; some location-specific vocabulary	5.4	53.4	44	660
Elena	late grade 5	historical fiction	U	possibly unfamiliar culture; historical setting; moderate text density; some Spanish words	4.9	49.5	44	610
Theme 6: Nature: Friend and Foe								
Grizzly Bear Family Book	late grade 5	nonfiction	V	high-interest nonfiction; heavy pictorial support; combines narrative and exposition; some challenging vocabulary	5.7	57.7		910
Golden Lion Tamarin	early grade 6	expository nonfiction	W	high-interest but challenging subject; several Portuguese words and expressions; good picture support	6.3	62.6		1030
My Side of the Mountain	late grade 5	realistic fiction	U	first-person narrative with simple sentence structure; some full pages of text; text headings; moderate vocabulary	4.7	51.0	44	700

**Houghton Mifflin Reading
Readability for Grade 6 Anthology**

Title	Overall Readability	Type of Text	Fluency Level for Differentiated Instruction	Factors Affecting Readability	Readability Formula Score	DRP Score	DRA Level	Lexile Level
Theme 1: Courage								
Hatchet	early grade 6	realistic fiction	R	high-interest; simple narrative structure with long and short sentence length; few full pages of text	6.1	52.2	40	830
Passage to Freedom	early grade 6	biography	S	few pages of full text; simple vocabulary and sentence structure; possibly unfamiliar subject and culture	5.8	50.7		630
Climb or Die	early grade 6	realistic fiction	T	several pages of full text; high-interest narrative; some technical vocabulary	6.0	52.3	44	580
True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle	early grade 6	historical fiction	U	historical narrative includes specialized vocabulary; several pages of full text; good illustration support	6.3	51.7	44	700
Theme 2: What Really Happened?								
Amelia Earhart: First Lady of Flight	mid grade 6	biography	T	moderate text density; section headings throughout selection; several photos with captions; some technical vocabulary	6.2	57.2	44	850
The Girl Who Married the Moon	mid grade 6	legend	T	straightforward structure; simple vocabulary; possibly unfamiliar culture; narrative style may be unfamiliar and challenging	5.6	48.9	44	670
Dinosaur Ghosts	mid grade 6	nonfiction	U	moderate text density; section headings throughout; illustrations with captions; science vocabulary	6.5	60.6	44	950

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Readability for Grade 6 Anthology**

Title	Overall Readability	Type of Text	Fluency Level for Differentiated Instruction	Factors Affecting Readability	Readability Formula Score	DRP Score	DRA Level	Lexile Level
Theme 3: Growing Up								
Where the Red Fern Grows	mid grade 6	realistic fiction	V	high-interest simple narrative with some challenging vocabulary; many full text pages	6.3	47.2		590
Last Summer with Maizon	mid grade 6	realistic fiction	U	easy narrative structure mostly dialogue; simple vocabulary; many full text pages	6.4	49.7	44	530
The Challenge	mid grade 6	short story	V	many full text pages; Spanish words and phrases	6.3	52.2		670
The View from Saturday	mid grade 6	realistic fiction	V	many full text pages; selection length; frequent scene shifts	6.5	50.1		740
Theme 4: Discovering Ancient Cultures								
Lost Temple of the Aztecs	mid grade 6	narrative nonfiction	V	complex subject; chapter heads; many illustrations with captions; some Spanish words and phrases	6.5	57.6		720
The Great Wall	mid grade 6	expository nonfiction	W	selection length; some challenging vocabulary; strong picture support	6.6	59.8		840
The Royal Kingdoms of Ghana, Mali, and Songhay	mid grade 6	expository nonfiction	W	selection length; unfamiliar culture; section headings throughout; some challenging vocabulary	6.6	65.6		1050

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Title	Overall Readability	Type of Text	Fluency Level for Differentiated Instruction	Factors Affecting Readability	Readability Formula Score	DRP Score	DRA Level	Lexile Level
Theme 5: Doers and Dreamers								
A Kind of Grace	mid grade 6	auto-biography	W	simple narrative structure; two-column format; strong support from captioned pictures; simple vocabulary	6.2	53.5		780
Under the Royal Palms	late grade 6	auto-biography	X	simple narrative structure; possibly unfamiliar culture; several full text pages; Spanish words and phrases	6.7	61.5		1100
Chuck Close, Up Close	late grade 6	biography	X	complexity of subject; section heads included; strong picture support; some challenging vocabulary	6.8	56.9		790
Theme 6: New Frontiers: Oceans and Space								
The Adventures of Sojourner	late grade 6	narrative nonfiction	X	complex subject; some science vocabulary; several full text pages; strong support from labeled illustrations	6.6	63.9		970
Franklin R. Chang-Diaz	late grade 6	biography	Y	several full text pages; extracted quotes; good captioned-picture support; some technical vocabulary	7.1	62.9		1020
Beneath Blue Waters	late grade 6	nonfiction	Y	complex subject; science vocabulary; several full text pages; good captioned-picture support	7.2	65.0		1120
Out There	late grade 6	short story	X	possible unfamiliar setting; several full text pages; scene shifts; specialized vocabulary	6.6	53.6		720