



VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF  
**EDUCATION**

Developing good readers happens when students:

- Read every day for at least 20 minutes
- Select materials within their Lexile range to provide the appropriate level of challenge
- Read a variety of materials and on topics that interest them
- Discuss what they've been reading with parents



## A Parent's Guide to The Lexile Framework<sup>®</sup> for Reading

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**Virginia Department of Education**  
Patricia I. Wright, Superintendent of Public Instruction



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# The Lexile Framework for Reading

## Supporting Virginia's Focus on Literacy Achievement

Reading just twenty minutes a day can improve your child's reading level!

While "reading" standards are part of the English/reading curriculum, Virginia's focus on literacy achievement supports the development of students' reading skills across all subject areas. For this reason, students in grades 3–8 receive a Lexile measure in addition to their scaled scores from the Standards of Learning (SOL) reading assessments.

The Lexile Framework® for Reading is an educational tool that matches students with reading materials using a common measure called a Lexile®. The Lexile Framework is unique in that it measures reading level and text difficulty on the same developmental scale. When used together, Lexile reader measures and Lexile text measures help parents to select books, articles, and other materials that match their child's reading level. Targeting reading material at the child's Lexile level can help to improve his or her comprehension, aid in completing school assignments, and build upon and expand his or her personal interests.

### What should you know about Lexile measures?

- A Lexile measure represents both a child's reading level and the difficulty of a text, like a book or magazine article.
- Lexile measures provide you with valuable information about your child's reading level and helps to make reading practice more meaningful. Your child's teacher may have used other appropriate assessments to determine a reading level for your child.
- Using the Lexile Book Database and an automated library media catalog, you can help your child choose books and other materials within his or her Lexile range (about 50L above and 100L below his or her Lexile measure).
- When your child reads text within his or her Lexile range, he or she is likely to comprehend enough of the text to make sense of it, while still being sufficiently challenged to maintain interest and learning.
- While Lexile measures target the difficulty of a text, they do not measure the appropriateness of the content. For example, a text with a low Lexile measure may not contain appropriate material for the students within that text's range.
- Lexile measures do not translate specifically to grade levels. Within a classroom, there will be a range of readers and a range of materials to be read.
- Lexile measures track reading growth over time and across content areas, no matter what grade your child is in.

For more information on how Lexile measures can help to improve your child's reading level, visit [www.doe.virginia.gov](http://www.doe.virginia.gov).



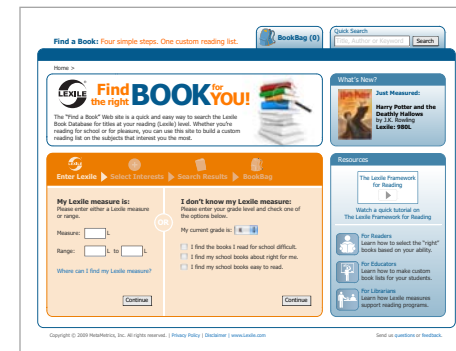
# The Lexile Framework at Home

## Using Lexile Measures to Improve Reading Level

### Lexile Book Database

The "Find a Book" Web site is the quickest and easiest way to search the Lexile Book Database for fiction and nonfiction titles at your child's Lexile level. Whether your child is reading for school or for pleasure, this site will help you build custom reading lists on the subjects that interest your child the most—in five simple steps:

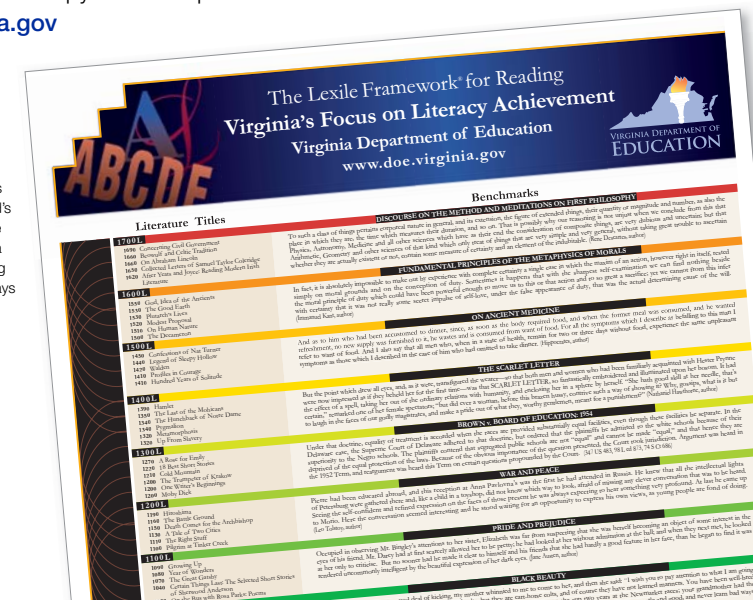
- 1 GO TO [www.lexile.com/findabook](http://www.lexile.com/findabook)
- 2 ENTER your child's Lexile measure
- 3 PICK your interest categories
- 4 VIEW/REFINE your search results
- 5 PRINT your custom reading list



### Lexile Map

The Virginia Department of Education worked with MetaMetrics®, Inc., developer of the Lexile Framework, to customize a Lexile "map." The map provides a graphic representation of texts and titles matched to appropriate reading levels.

You can download a copy of the map at: [www.doe.virginia.gov](http://www.doe.virginia.gov)



A Lexile is a measure of text difficulty. It does not address age-appropriateness, a child's interests or the quality of the text. The Lexile measure is a good starting point in picking a book. Parents should always preview books.

