



EXPEDITIONARY
LEARNING

Grade 4: Module 2A: Unit 1: Recommended Texts



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Unit 1 focuses on life in Colonial America, particularly in the New York colonies. The list below includes texts with a range of Lexile® text measures on this topic. This provides appropriate independent reading for each student to help build content knowledge. 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 CCLS demand.

Where possible, texts in languages other than English are also provided. Texts are categorized into three Lexile measures that correspond to Common Core Bands: below-grade band, within band, and above-grade band. Note however that Lexile 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)

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

Title	Author And Illustrator	Text Type	Lexile Measure
Lexile text measures in Grade 2–3 band level (below 740L)			
<i>If You Lived in Colonial Times</i>	Ann McGovern (author), June Otani (illustrator)	Informational	590
<i>Your Life as a Settler in Colonial America</i>	Thomas Kingsley Troupe (author), C. B. Canga (illustrator)	Informational	650
<i>The Real Story about Government and Politics in Colonial America</i>	Kristine Carlson Asselin (author)	Informational	720
<i>The Colony of New York</i>	Susan Whitehurst (author)	Informational	730*

*Lexile based on a conversion from Accelerated Reading level



Title	Author And Illustrator	Text Type	Lexile Measure
Lexile text measures in Grade 4–5 band level (740–925L)			
<i>The New York Colony</i>	Martin Hintz (author)	Informational	740*
<i>Colonial Life</i>	Brendan January (author)	Informational	770
<i>The Arrow Over the Door</i>	Joseph Bruchac (author)	Literature	810
<i>The New York Colony</i>	Kevin Cunningham (author)	Informational	830
<i>The History of Early New York</i>	Jeremy Thornton (author)	Informational	830*
<i>Key Leaders in Colonial New York</i>	Elizabeth O’Grady and Colleen Adams (authors)	Informational	890
<i>New York Native Peoples</i>	Mark Stewart (author)	Informational	960*
<i>Early American Villages</i>	Raymond Bial (author/photographer)	Informational	960*
Lexile text measures within Grade 6–8 band level (925–1185L)			
<i>New York: The History of New York Colony. 1624–1776</i>	Roberta Wiener and James R. Arnold (authors)	Informational	1120
<i>Building a New Land: African Americans in Colonial America</i>	James Haskins and Kathleen Benson (authors), James Ransome (illustrator)	Informational	1170

*Lexile based on a conversion from Accelerated Reading level



Title	Author And Illustrator	Text Type	Lexile Measure
<i>New York, 1609–1776</i>	Michael Burgan (author)	Informational	No Lexile
<i>New York Native Americans: A Kid's Look at Our State's Chiefs, Tribes, Reservations, Powwows, Lore, and More from the Past and the Present</i>	Carole Marsh (author)	Informational	No Lexile



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Grade 4: Module 2A: Unit 2:

Recommended Texts



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Unit 2 reinforces knowledge of life in Colonial America, focusing in particular on the lives of everyday colonists. The list below includes texts with a range of Lexile® text measures on this topic. This provides appropriate independent reading for each student to help build content knowledge. 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 to continue to build the academic vocabulary and fluency that the CCLS demand.

GRADE 4: MODULE 2A: UNIT 2: RECOMMENDED TEXTS

Where possible, texts in languages other than English are also provided. Texts are categorized into three Lexile ranges that correspond to Common Core Bands: below-grade band, within band, and above-grade band. Note, however, that Lexile 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.

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Title	Author And Illustrator	Text Type	Lexile Measure
Lexile text measures in Grade 2–3 band level (below 740L)			
<i>Work in Colonial America</i>	Mark Thomas (author)	Informational	260
<i>School in Colonial America</i>	Mark Thomas (author)	Informational	320
<i>Our Strange New Land: Elizabeth’s Jamestown Colony Diary, Book One</i>	Patricia Hermes (author)	Literature	350
<i>The Starving Time: Elizabeth’s Jamestown Colony Diary, Book Two</i>	Patricia Hermes (author)	Literature	360
<i>Colonial Voices: Hear Them Speak</i>	Kay Winter (author), Larry Day (illustrator)	Informational	630



Title	Author And Illustrator	Text Type	Lexile Measure
Lexile text measures in Grade 4–5 band level (740–1010L)			
<i>The Dish on Food and Farming in Colonial America</i>	Anika Fajardo (author)	Informational	740
<i>The Scoop on Clothes, Homes, and Daily Life in Colonial America</i>	Elizabeth Raum (author)	Informational	780
<i>The Scoop on School and Work in Colonial America</i>	Bonnie Hinman (author)	Informational	790
<i>A Pickpocket’s Tale</i>	Karen Schwabach (author)	Literature	810
<i>Surviving Jamestown: The Adventures of Young Sam Collier</i>	Gail Langer Karwoski (author), Paul Casale (illustrator)	Literature	820
<i>The Matchlock Gun</i>	Walter D. Edmonds (author), Paul Lantz (illustrator)	Literature	860
<i>Colonial Woman</i>	Niki Walker (author)	Informational	925*

¹Available in e-book format only.

* Lexile based on a conversion from Accelerated Reading level.



Title	Author And Illustrator	Text Type	Lexile Measure
Lexile text measures above band level (over 1010L)			
<i>Jamestown, 1607</i>	Michael L. Cooper (author)	Informational	1040
<i>The Secret of the Sealed Room: A Mystery of Young Ben Franklin</i>	Bailey MacDonald (author)	Literature	1050
<i>A History of US: Making Thirteen Colonies, 1600–1740</i>	Joy Hakim (author)	Informational	No Lexile



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Grade 4: Module 2A: Unit 3:

Recommended Texts



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In Unit 3, students build knowledge about historical fiction (including but not limited to the colonial era). The list below includes texts with a range of Lexile® text measures on this topic. This provides appropriate independent reading for each student to help build content knowledge. 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.

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Title	Author And Illustrator	Text Type	Lexile Measure
Lexile text measures in Grade 2–3 band level (below 740L)			
<i>The Three Questions</i>	Jon J. Muth (author/illustrator)	Literature	410
<i>Death of the Iron Horse</i>	Paul Goble (author/illustrator)	Literature	550
<i>Stand Tall, Molly Lou Melon</i>	Patty Lovell (author), David Catrow (illustrator)	Literature	460
<i>Walking to School</i>	Eve Bunting (author), Michael Dooling (illustrator)	Literature	560
<i>Crash</i>	Jerry Spinelli (author)	Literature	560
<i>The Lemonade War</i>	Jacqueline Davies (author)	Literature	630
<i>Dexter the Tough</i>	Avi (author) Margaret Peterson Haddix (author)	Literature	690
<i>Song of the Trees</i>	Mildred D. Taylor (author), Jerry Pinkney (illustrator)	Literature	710



Title	Author And Illustrator	Text Type	Lexile Measure
Lexile text measures in Grade 4–5 band level (740–1010L)			
<i>Escaping the Giant Wave</i>	Peg Kehret (author)	Literature	750
<i>Rules</i>	Cynthia Lord (author)	Literature	780
<i>Peace One Day</i>	Jeremy Gilley (author)	Informational	860
<i>The Hundred Dresses</i>	Eleanor Estes (author), Louis Slobodkin (illustrator)	Literature	870
<i>Shiloh</i>	Phyllis Reynolds Naylor (author)	Literature	890
<i>Summer Ball</i>	Mike Lupica (author)	Literature	910
<i>Children of the Longhouse</i>	Joseph Bruchac (author)	Literature	950



Title	Author And Illustrator	Text Type	Lexile Measure
Lexile text measures above band level (over 1010L)			
<i>Libby on Wednesday*</i>	Zilpha Keatley Snyder (author)	Literature	1070
<i>After Gandhi: One Hundred Years of Non-Violent Resistance</i>	Anne Sibley O'Brien and Perry Edmond O'Brien (authors), Anne Sibley O'Brien (illustrator)	Informational	1080
<i>Peaceful Pieces: Poems and Quilts about Peace</i>	Anna Grossnickle Hines (author/illustrator)	Poetry	NP
<i>Voices from Afar: Poems of Peace</i>	Tony Johnston (author), Susan Guevara (illustrator)	Poetry	NP

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