



EXPEDITIONARY
LEARNING

Grade 4: Module 3A: Unit 1: Recommended Texts



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Unit 1 focuses on simple machines and how those machines help people. 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 demanded by the CCLS.

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.

Common Core Band Level Text Difficulty Ranges:

(As provided in the NYSED Passage Selection Guidelines for Assessing CCSS ELA)

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

Title	Author and Illustrator	Text Type	Lexile Measure
Lexile text measures below-grade band level (below 740L)			
<i>What Is a Plane?</i>	Lloyd G. Douglas (author)	Informational	230
<i>What Is a Lever?</i>	Lloyd G. Douglas (author)	Informational	230
<i>What Is a Wedge?</i>	Lloyd G. Douglas (author)	Informational	280
<i>What Is a Pulley?</i>	Lloyd G. Douglas (author)	Informational	300
<i>What Is a Screw?</i>	Lloyd G. Douglas (author)	Informational	310
<i>Push and Pull</i>	Patricia J. Murphy (author)	Informational	480
<i>Inclined Planes and Wedges</i>	Sally M. Walker and Roseann Feldmann (authors), Andy King (photographer)	Informational	520
<i>Simple Machines</i>	Deborah Hodge (author), Ray Boudreau (illustrator)	Informational	580



Title	Author and Illustrator	Text Type	Lexile Measure
<i>Lance Dragon Defends His Castle with Simple Machines</i>	Eric Braun (author), Anthony Briglia (illustrator)	Informational	475*
<i>Machines We Use</i>	Sally Hewitt	Informational	640
<i>Tires, Spokes, and Sprockets: A Book about Wheels and Axles</i>	Michael Dahl (author) Denise Shea (illustrator)	Informational	660
<i>Screws to the Rescue</i>	Sharon Thales	Informational	660
<i>Wedges to the Rescue</i>	Sharon Thales	Informational	660
<i>Levers to the Rescue</i>	Sharon Thales	Informational	660
<i>Cut, Chop, and Stop: A Book about Wedges</i>	Michael Dahl (author) Denise Shea (illustrator)	Informational	670
<i>Simple Machines</i>	Vijaya Khisty Bodach (author)	Informational	680
<i>Inclined Planes to the Rescue</i>	Sharon Thales	Informational	690
<i>Wheels and Axles to the Rescue</i>	Sharon Thales	Informational	690
<i>Ramps and Wedges</i>	David Glover (author)	Informational	700
<i>Pulleys to the Rescue</i>	Sharon Thales	Informational	710
<i>Levers and Pulleys: Lift Anything!</i>	Emily Sohn and Frederick Fellows (authors)	Informational	720
<i>Powerful Machines: Discover Science through Facts and Fun</i>	Gerry Bailey (author)	Informational	730

*Lexile based on a conversion from Accelerated Reading level



Title	Author and Illustrator	Text Type	Lexile Measure
<i>Roll, Slope, and Slide: A Book about Ramps</i>	Michael Dahl (author), Denise Shea (illustrator)	Informational	No Lexile
Lexile text measures within band level (740-1010L)			
<i>Scoop, Seesaw, and Raise: A Book about Levers</i>	Michael Dahl (author) Denise Shea (illustrator)	Informational	740
<i>How Do You Lift a Lion?</i>	Robert E. Wells (author/illustrator)	Informational	750
<i>Wedges in Action</i>	Gillian Gosman (author)	Informational	770*
<i>Science Experiments with Simple Machines</i>	Sally Nankivell-Aston and Dorothy Jackson (authors)	Informational	770
<i>Simple Machines</i>	Dana Meachen Rau (author)	Informational	780
<i>Pull, Lift, and Lower: A Book about Pulleys</i>	Michael Dahl (author) Denise Shea (illustrator)	Informational	780
<i>Simple Machines</i>	Ade Deane-Pratt (author)	Informational	820*
<i>How to Catapult a Castle: Machines That Brought Down the Battlement</i>	James de Winter (author)	Informational	820
<i>Explore Simple Machines!</i>	Anita Yasuda (author)	Informational	830
<i>Simple Machines: Discover Science through Facts and Fun</i>	Steve Way and Gerry Bailey (authors)	Informational	840
<i>Forces and Simple Machines</i>	Jon Richards (author)	Informational	875*
<i>How Things Work Encyclopedia</i>	DK Publishing	Informational	960*
<i>Force and Simple Machines</i>	Jon Richards (author)	Informational	No Lexile

*Lexile based on a conversion from Accelerated Reading level



Title	Author And Illustrator	Text Type	Lexile Measure
Lexile text measures above-grade band level (over 1010L)			
<i>Simple Machines Made Simple</i>	Ralph St. Andre (author)	Informational	No Lexile
<i>Sir Isaac Newton: Brilliant Mathematician and Scientist</i>	Natalie M. Rosinsky (author)	Informational	1080
<i>Force and Motion</i>	Peter Lafferty (author)	Informational	1110
<i>The New Way Things Work</i>	David Macaulay (author)	Informational	1180
<i>Machines and Work (Science Fair Projects)</i>	Patricia Whitehouse (author)	Informational	No Lexile



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Grade 4: Module 3A: Unit 2:

Recommended Texts



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Unit 2 focuses on simple machines and how those machines help people. The list below includes texts with a range of Lexile® text measures on this topic, with an emphasis on six specific simple machines. 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 demanded by the CCLS.

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)

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- Grades 6–8: 925–1185L

Title	Author and Illustrator	Text Type	Lexile Measure
Lexile text measures below band level (below 740L)			
<i>Ramps and Wedges</i>	Sian Smith (author)	Informational	450
<i>Los engranajes trabajan, las ruedas ruedan/Gears Go, Wheels Roll</i>	Mark Weakland (author)	Informational	520*
<i>Put Wheels and Axles to the Test</i>	Sally M. Walker and Roseann Feldmann (authors)	Informational	520
<i>Screws</i>	Lyn Sirota (author), Reginald Butler (illustrator)	Informational	580
<i>Inclined Planes</i>	Katie Marsico (author), Reginald Butler (illustrator)	Informational	600

*Lexile based on a conversion from Accelerated Reading level



Title	Author and Illustrator	Text Type	Lexile Measure
<i>From Washboards to Washing Machines: How Homes Have Changed</i>	Jennifer Boothroyd (author)	Informational	620
<i>Put Pulleys to the Test</i>	Sally M. Walker and Roseann Feldmann (authors)	Informational	620
<i>Get to Know Inclined Planes</i>	Jennifer Christiansen (author)	Informational	720
Lexile text measures within band level (740-1010L)			
<i>Twist, Dig, and Drill: A Book about Screws</i>	Michael Dahl (author), Denise Shea (illustrator)	Informational	740
<i>Get to Know Screws</i>	Paul C. Challen (author)	Informational	750
<i>Pulleys and Gears</i>	David Glover (author)	Informational	750*
<i>Screws</i>	Michael De Medeiros (author)	Informational	790*
<i>Wedges</i>	Tatiana Tomljanovic (author)	Informational	790*
<i>Inclined Planes</i>	Jennifer Howse (author)	Informational	840*
<i>Roll, Slope, and Slide: A Book about Ramps</i>	Michael Dahl (author), Denise Shea (Illustrator)	Informational	860
<i>Screws in Action</i>	Gillian Gosman (author)	Informational	860*
<i>Wheels and Axles in Action</i>	Gillian Gosman (author)	Informational	980

*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>In the Renaissance</i>	Richard Platt (author), David Lawrence (illustrator)	Informational	1030
<i>Technology in the Ancient World</i>	Paul C. Challen et al. (authors)	Informational	1070
<i>The Inside & Out Guide to Mighty Machines</i>	Clint Twist (author)	Informational	1130



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Grade 4: Module 3A: Unit 3: Recommended Texts



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Unit 3 focuses on simple machines and how those machines are used in modern life. 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 demanded by the CCLS.

Where possible, texts in languages other than English are also provided. Texts are categorized into three Lexile levels that correspond to Common Core Bands: below grade band, within band, and above 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 below band level (below 740L)			
<i>Bicycle Book</i>	Gail Gibbons (author)	Informational	530
<i>Construction Toys</i>	Wendy Sadler (author)	Informational	670
<i>The Inventions of Eli Whitney: The Cotton Gin</i>	Holly Cefrey (author)	Informational	725*

*Lexile based on a conversion from Accelerated Reading level



Title	Author And Illustrator	Text Type	Lexile Measure
Lexile text measures within band level (740-1010L)			
<i>The History of Everyday Life</i>	Elaine Landau (author)	Informational	760*
<i>The Bicycle</i>	Larry Hills (author)	Informational	775*
<i>Household Inventions: From Toilets to Toasters</i>	Natalie Lunis (author)	Informational	840
<i>How Do Hybrid Cars Work?</i>	Richard Hantula (author)	Informational	840*
<i>So You Want to Be an Inventor?</i>	Judith St. George (author)	Informational	840
<i>Reinvent the Wheel: Make Classic Inventions, Discover Your Problem-Solving Genius, and Take the Inventor's Challenge</i>	Ruth Kassinger (author)	Informational	890*
<i>Inventors Who Changed the World</i>	Angela Royston (author)	Informational	900*
<i>The Chinese Thought of It: Amazing Inventions and Innovations</i>	Ting-xing Ye (author)	Informational	910*
Lexile text measures above band level (over 1010L)			
<i>Whose Idea Was That? Inventions that Changed Our Lives</i>	David Ellyard (author)	Informational	1010*
<i>Gadgets and Inventions</i>	Neil Morris (author)	Informational	1060
<i>Mighty Machines</i>	Ian Graham (author)	Informational	1080

*Lexile based on a conversion from Accelerated Reading level.

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