

#### Sample Titles of Complex Texts by Grade Band

There is no frigate like a book
To take us lands away,
Nor any coursers like a page
Of prancing poetry.
This traverse may the poorest take
Without oppress of toll;
How frugal is the chariot
That bears a human soul!

-Emily Dickinson

Employ your time in improving yourself by other men's writings so that you shall come easily by what others have labored hard for. – Socrates

This sample list of texts includes selections ranging from the Classical Period of ancient Greek and Rome to contemporary texts, representing a full spectrum of genres: classic literature, folktales, poetry, satire, memoirs, essays, speeches, plays, narratives, treatises, founding documents, and histories.

The reading and writing standards have been constructed so that the sample texts serve as mentor texts for students, demonstrating exemplar writing. In many instances, they have also been selected to provide students with background knowledge in topics covered by other content areas, helping students to build the vocabulary and schema that will help them be successful in all of their academic endeavors.

These texts are by authors whose works comprise a rich literary tradition, a tradition with which all students should become familiar. The list should serve as a guide for teachers, curriculum developers, and test makers as they prepare their instructional units and materials for Florida students. It is not intended to be exhaustive but to serve as a foundation for educators when selecting additional rich and meaningful texts.

This sample book list is organized into grades for text complexity guidance. The texts listed here have been selected based on both quantitative and qualitative measures. There are instances in which a student-centered consideration would indicate that a text be used at a lower or higher grade level than indicated here. Further, as students become independent readers—and especially when they are intrigued with a topic—they are often eager and ready to read texts that may be listed here at a higher grade level. Educators should encourage students to wrestle with such complex texts—with proper scaffolding—when they deem it appropriate.



# Kindergarten

Title	Author
"At the Seaside"	Stevenson, Robert Louis
"The Clock" - a Mother Goose Poem	Unknown
A Mother for Choco	Kasza, Keiko
Brown Bear, Brown Bear	Martin Jr., Bill
Chicka Chicka Boom Boom	Martin, Bill and Archambault, John
Corduroy	Freeman, Don
Curious George	Rey, H.A
Hop on Pop	Dr. Seuss
I am Jackie Robinson	Meltzer, Brad
Mission to Space	Herrington, John
Now We Are Six	Milne, A.A.
On a Farm	Andrews, Alexa
Red is Best	Stinson, Kathy
Rumble in the Jungle	Andreae, Giles
Swimmy	Lionni, Leo
The Bald Eagle	Pearl, Norman
The Carrot Seed	Krauss, Ruth and Crockett Johnson
The Sky Painter: Louis Guertes, Bird Artist	Engle, Margarita
The Very First Americans	Ashrose, Cara
Two Ways to Count to Ten: A Liberian Folktale	Dee, Ruby
Wandering Whale Sharks	Shingu, Susumu
We Have a Little Garden	Potter, Beatrix
Where the Wild Things Are	Sendak, Maurice



# 1st Grade

Title	Author
"Daffodowndilly"	Milne, A.A.
"Eletelephony"	Richards, Laura
A Picture Book of Benjamin Franklin	Adler, David
Chickens Don't Fly	Disiena, Laura Lyn
Clifford the Big Red Dog	Bridwell, Norman
Danny and the Dinosaur	Hoff, Syd
Drum Dream Girl	Engle, Margarita
Fantastic Undersea Life of Jacques Cousteau	Yaccarino, Dan
From Seed to Pumpkin	Pfeffer, Wendy and James Graham
How People Learned to Fly	Hodgkins, Fran
I Am Enough	Byers, Grace
I am Helen Keller	Meltzer, Brad
I Wonder	Hoban, Tana
Keep a Poem in Your Pocket	Schenk de Regniers, Beatrice
Madeline	Bemelmans, Ludwig
My Name is Celia/Me llamo Celia: The Life of Celia Cruz/la vida de Celia Cruz	Brown, Monica and Rafael Lopez
Now & Ben: The Modern Inventions of Benjamin Franklin	Barretta, Gene
Police Officers	Bourgeois, Paulette and Kim LaFave
Put Me in the Zoo	Lopshire, Robert
The Slug	Gravel, Elise
The Tale of Peter Rabbit	Potter, Beatrix
The Three Little Pigs	Halliwell-Phillipps, James
The Tortoise and the Hare	Aesop
The Ugly Duckling	Andersen, Hans Christian
The Velveteen Rabbit	Williams, Margery
The White House	Douglas, Lloyd
Tooth By Tooth: Comparing Fangs, Tusks, and Chompers	Levine, Sara



# 2nd Grade

Title	Author
"Gathering Leaves"	Frost, Robert
"The Crocodile"	Carroll, Lewis
"The Fieldmouse"	Alexander, Cecil Frances
"The Swing"	Stevenson, Robert Louis
A More Perfect Union: The Story of Our Constitution	Maestro, Betsy
Bears on Hemlock Mountain	Dalgliesh, Alice
Bee Dance	Chrustowski, Rick
Eleanor	Cooney, Barbara
Father of the Constitution: A Story about James Madison	Mitchell, Barbara
Four Famished Foxes and Fosdyke	Duncan, Pamela
Give Bees a Chance	Barton, Bethany
In a Pickle and other Funny Idioms	Terban, Marvin
Living or Nonliving?	Hicks, Kelli
Mango, Abuela, and Me	Medina, Meg
One Morning in Maine	McCloskey, Robert
Seven Blind Mice	Young, Ed
Susan B. Anthony: Fighter for Freedom and Equality	Slade, Suzanne
The Coastal Dune Drama: Bob, the Gopher Tortoise	Nash, Katherine Seeds
The Congress of the United States	Taylor-Butler, Christine
The Gingerbread Man	Aylesworth, Jim
The Patchwork Quilt	Flournoy, Valerie
The Runaway Piggy	Luna, James
Vote!	Christelow, Eileen
Wanted Dead or Alive: The True Story of Harriet Tubman	McGovern, Ann
We the Kids: The Preamble of the Constitution of the United States	Catrow, David
Winnie the Pooh	Milne, A.A.



# 3rd Grade

Title	Author
"My Doggy Ate My Essay"	Sardelli, Darren
"There was an Old Man with a Flute"	Lear, Edward
"Toward Those Short Trees"	Shiki, Masaoka
Tula ["Books are Door-shaped"]	Engle, Margarita
Abraham Lincoln: A Life of Honesty	Leslie, Tonya
Charlotte's Web	White, E.B.
Flight	Burleigh, Robert
Frederick Douglass Fights for Freedom	Davidson, Margaret
Honest Abe Lincoln	Adler, David A.
If You Traveled on the Underground Railroad	Levine, Ellen
Matilda	Dahl, Roald
Miracle on 133rd Street	Manzano, Sonia
Moonshot: The Flight of Apollo 11	Floca, Brian
Pablo Neruda: Poet of the People	Brown, Monica
Pippi Longstocking	Lindgren, Astrid
Revolutionary Friends: General George Washington and the Marquis de Lafayette	Castrovilla, Selene
Rosa Parks	Greenfield, Eloise
Sarah, Plain and Tall	MacLachlan, Patricia
Stuart Little	White, E.B.
The Boxcar Children	Warner, Gertrude Chandler
The Children's Book of Virtues	Bennett, William
The Little Prince	de Saint-Exupery, Antoine
The Real McCoy: The Life of an African-American Inventor	Towle, Wendy
The Whipping Boy	Fleischman, Sid
The Wonderful Wizard of Oz	Baum, Frank
To the Moon and Back	Aldrin, Buzz
Who was Betsy Ross?	Buckley, James Jr.



Title	Author
"Fish Cheeks"	Tan, Amy
"Mother Doesn't Want a Dog"	Viorst, Judith
Aaron and Alexander: The Most Famous Duel in American History	Brown, Don
Carry on, Mr. Bowditch	Latham, Jean Lee
Casey at the Bat	Thayer, Ernest Lawrence
Chester Nez and the Unbreakable Code: A Navajo Code Talker's Story	Bruchac, Joseph
Esperanza Rising	Ryan, Pam Muñoz
Florida	Orr, Tamra
Fort Mose: And the Story of the Man Who Built the First Free Black Settlement in Colonial America	Turner, Glennette Tilley
Halfway Down	Milne, A.A.
Homer Price	McCloskey, Robert
Johnny Tremain	Forbes, Esther
Little House on the Prairie	Wilder, Laura Ingalls
On the Wings of Heroes	Peck, Richard
Promises to Keep: How Jackie Robinson Changed America	Robinson, Sharon
Reaching for the Moon	Aldrin, Buzz
Tales of the Odyssey (series)	Osborne, Mary Pope
The Castle in the Attic	Winthrop, Elizabeth
The Declaration of Independence	Landau, Elaine
The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe	Lewis, C.S.
The Story of Science: Aristotle Leads The Way	Hakim, Joy
The Wolf's Story	Forward, Toby
To Catch a Fish	Greenfield, Eloise
Toliver's Secret	Brady, Esther Wood
Where the Red Fern Grows	Rawls, Wilson
Where Was Patrick Henry on the 29th of May?	Fritz, Jean
Who Would Win? (series)	Pallotta, Jerry
William Shakespeare and the Globe	Aliki



Title	Author
"I, Too"	Hughes, Langston
"If"	Kipling, Rudyard
"Paul Revere's Ride"	Longfellow, Henry Wadsworth
"The Road Not Taken"	Frost, Robert
Abuelita's Heart	Cordova, Amy
Anne of Green Gables	Montgomery, L.M.
Call it Courage	Sperry, Armstrong
Call Me Maria	Cofer, Judith Ortiz
Chasing Vermeer	Balliett, Blue
City of Ember	DuPrau, Jeanne
Farewell to Manzanar	Houston, Jeanne Wakatsuki and Houston, James D.
Five Children and It	Nesbit, E.
From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler	Konigsburg, E.L.
Hidden Figures	Shetterly, Margot
Hurricanes: Earth's Mightiest Storms	Lauber, Patricia
I am Malala	Yousafzai, Malala
Island of the Blue Dolphins	O'Dell, Scott
My Librarian is a Camel: How Books Are Brought to Children Around the World	Ruurs, Margriet
Shh! We're Writing the Constitution	Fritz, Jean
The Secret Garden	Burnett, Frances Hodgson
The Shakespeare Stealer	Blackwood, Gary
The Trail of Tears	Bruchac, Joseph
The Watsons Go to Birmingham	Curtis, Christopher Paul
They Called Her Molly Pitcher	Rockwell, Anne
Thurgood Marshall and the Supreme Court	Kent, Deborah
Volcano: Eruption and Healing of St. Helens	Lauber, Patrica
We the People: The Constitution of the United States of America	Spier, Peter
Written in Bone: Buried Lives of Jamestown and Colonial Maryland	Walker, Sally



Title	Author
"Acquainted with the Night"	Frost, Robert
"Eulogy of the Dog"	Vest, George G.
"Farewell Speech"	Gehrig, Lou
"Speech to National Council of Negro Women" (2001)	Rice, Condoleezza
"The House on the Hill"	Robinson, Edwin Arlington
"Two Viewpoints"	Burr, Amelia Josephine
"Yet Do I Marvel"	Cullen, Countee
A Long Walk to Water	Park, Linda Sue
Black Ships before Troy	Sutcliff, Rosemary
Bronze Bow	Speare, Elizabeth George
Down, Down, Down: A Journey to the Bottom of the Sea	Jenkins, Steve
Harriet Tubman: Conductor on the Underground Railroad	Petry, Ann
Hatchet	Paulsen, Gary
Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl	Jacobs, Harriet
Lincoln: A Photobiography	Freedman, Russell
Little Britches	Moody, Ralph
Little Women	Alcott, Louisa May
Miracle on Maple Hill	Sorensen, Virginia
The Adventures of Pinocchio	Collodi, Carlo
The Book of Virtues for Young People: A Treasury of Great Moral Stories	Bennett, William
The Devil's Arithmetic	Yolen, Jane
The Hiding Place	ten Boom, Corrie
The Phantom Tollbooth	Juster, Norton
Tales of the Greek Heroes	Green, Roger Lancelyn
Treasure Island	Stevenson, Robert Louis



Title	Author
"Address Before a Joint Session of the Congress, November 27, 1963"	Johnson, Lyndon Baines
"An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge"	Bierce, Ambrose
"Citizenship and Leadership" from <i>The Moral Compass: Stories for a Life's Journey</i>	Bennett, William
"Do Not Go Gentle into That Good Night"	Thomas, Dylan
"Farewell Address"	Eisenhower, Dwight
"Give Me Liberty or Give Me Death" Speech	Henry, Patrick
"On First Looking Into Chapman's Homer"	Keats, John
"On Women's Right to Vote"	Anthony, Susan B.
"Sonnet 18"	Shakespeare, William
"The Destructive Male"	Stanton, Elizabeth
"The Eyes Have It"	Dick, Philip K.
"The New Colossus"	Lazarus, Emma
"The Rights of the Colonists: The Report of the Committee of Correspondence to the Boston Town Meeting"	Adams, Samuel
"the sonnet-ballad"	Brooks, Gwendolyn
"The Tell-Tale Heart"	Poe, Edgar Allan
Book of Esther	The Bible
Freedom Walkers	Freedman, Russell
George vs. George: The American Revolution as Seen from Both Sides	Schanzer, Rosalyn
Old Yeller	Gibson, Fred
The Adventures of Tom Sawyer	Twain, Mark
The Count of Monte Cristo	Dumas, Alexandre
The Kon-Tiki Expedition: By Raft Across the South Seas	Heyerdahl, Thor
The Long Road to Gettysburg	Murphy, Jim
The Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass	Douglass, Frederick
The Prince and the Pauper	Twain, Mark
The Red Umbrella	Gonzalez, Christina Diaz
The Twenty-One Balloons	Pene du Bois, William
The Yearling	Rawlings, Marjorie Kinnan



Title	Author
"9/11 Address to the Nation"	Bush, George W.
"A Day that Will Live in Infamy"	Roosevelt, Franklin
"Ain't I a Woman?"	Truth, Sojourner
"Blessings of Liberty and Education"	Douglass, Frederick
"Introduction to Poetry"	Collins, Billy
"Parsley"	Dove, Rita
"The Bells"	Poe, Edgar Allan
"The Cremation of Sam McGee"	Service, Robert
"The Gift of the Magi"	Henry, O.
"The Raven"	Poe, Edgar Allen
"The Yellow Wallpaper"	Gilman, Charlotte Perkins
"We Real Cool"	Brooks, Gwendolyn
"What Does American Democracy Mean to Me?"	Bethune, Mary McLeod
Anne Frank: Diary of a Young Girl	Frank, Anne
Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde	Stevenson, Robert Louis
I Will Always Write Back	Alifirenka, Caitlin, Welch, Liz, Ganda, Martin
Long Walk to Freedom	Mandela, Nelson
Rip Van Winkle	Irving, Washington
Shane	Schaefer, Jack
Sir Gawain and the Green Knight	Gawain Poet (unknown)
Swiss Family Robinson	Wyss, Johann David
Team Moon: How 400,000 People Landed Apollo 11 on the Mo	oon Thimmesh, Catherine
The Call of the Wild	London, Jack
The Chosen	Potok, Chaim
The Hobbit	Tolkien, J.R.R.
The Princess and the Goblin	MacDonald, George
The Wright Brothers: How They Invented the Airplane	Freedman, Russell
Things Fall Apart	Achebe, Chinua
To Kill a Mockingbird	Lee, Harper
Trapped	Aronson, Marc



Title	Author
"A Modest Proposal"	Swift, Jonathan
"A Very Old Man with Enormous Wings"	Marquez, Gabriel Garcia
"A White Heron"	Jewett, Sarah Orne
"Bringing My Son to the Police Station to be Fingerprinted"	Sky, Shoshauna
"Choice: A Tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr."	Walker, Alice
"Danger of a Single Story"	Adichie, Chimamanda Ngozi
"I Have a Dream"	King, Jr., Martin Luther
"Industrial Education for the Negro"	Washington, Booker T.
"Letter from Birmingham Jail"	King, Jr., Martin Luther
"Letter to the Grand Duchess in 1615"	Galilei, Galileo
"Nobel Prize Acceptance Speech 1950"	Faulkner, William
"St Crispin's Day Speech," Henry V, Act IV Scene iii 18–67	Shakespeare, William
"Speech to the Troops" 1588	Elizabeth I
"The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock"	Eliot, T.S.
"The Talented Tenth"	DuBois, W.E.B
1984	Orwell, George
Animal Farm	Orwell, George
Antigone	Anouilh, Jean
Antigone	Sophocles
Beowulf	Unknown
Democracy in America	de Tocqueville, Alexis
Electra	Sophocles
Finding Mañana: A Memoir of a Cuban Exodus	Ojito, Mirta
Medea	Euripides
Old Greek Stories	Baldwin, James
Romeo and Juliet	Shakespeare, William
The Aeneid	Virgil
The Death of Ivan Ilyich	Tolstoy, Leo
The Epic of Gilgamesh	Unknown
The Hero with a Thousand Faces	Campbell, Joseph
The Iliad	Homer
The Lincoln-Douglas Debates 1st Debate	Douglas, Stephen and Lincoln, Abraham
The Odyssey	Homer
The Prince	Machiavelli, Niccolai
Unbroken	Hillenbrand, Laura



Title	Author
"Address to William Henry Harrison"	Chief Tecumseh
"Checkers" Speech	Nixon, Richard
"Constantly Risking Absurdity"	Ferlinghetti, Lawrence
"Cross of Gold" Speech	Bryan, William Jennings
"Farewell Address"	Washington, George
"Farewell Speech"	MacArthur, Gen. Douglas
"For the Equal Rights Amendment"	Chisholm, Shirley
"House Divided" Speech	Lincoln, Abraham
"I Am a Democrat and not a Revolutionist"	Hill, Sen. David Bennett
"Not Waving But Drowning"	Smith, Stevie
"Ozymandias"	Shelley, Percy Bysshe
"Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God"	Edwards, Jonathan
"Thanatopsis"	Bryant, William Cullen
"The Second Coming"	Yeats, William Butler
"The Story of Pygmalion" from Metamorphoses	Ovid
"What to the Slave Is the Fourth of July?"	Frederick Douglass
"What's Wrong with 'Equal Rights' for Women?"	Schlafly, Phyllis
2 Samuel	The Bible
A Raisin in the Sun	Hansberry, Lorraine
A Tale of Two Cities	Dickens, Charles
Common Sense	Paine, Thomas
Cry, The Beloved Country	Paton, Alan
Fahrenheit 451	Bradbury, Ray
Frankenstein	Shelley, Mary
Galatea	Miller, Madeline
Land of Hope: An Invitation to the Great American	
Story	McClay, Wilfred M.
Lord of the Flies	Golding, William
Macbeth	Shakespeare, William
Midsummer Night's Dream	Shakespeare, William
Of Mice and Men	Steinbeck, John
Prometheus Unbound	Shelley, Percy Bysshe
Pygmalion	Shaw, George Bernard
The Autobiography of an Ex-Colored Man	Johnson, James Weldon
The Crucible	Miller, Arthur
The Piano Lesson	Wilson, August
The Red Badge of Courage	Crane, Stephen
The Scarlet Letter	Hawthorne, Nathaniel
The Souls of Black Folk	DuBois, W.E.B.
Uncle Tom's Cabin	Stowe, Harriet Beecher
Up from Slavery	Washington, Booker T.



Title	Author
"Book IV" of History of the Peloponnesian War	Thucydides
"Book VII" of Histories	Herodotus
"Depart!" from "Book VII" of The Anabasis of Alexander	Arrian
"Doctrine of Right" from The Metaphysics of Morals	Kant, Immanuel
"Nature"	Emerson, Ralph Waldo
"O Captain, My Captain"	Whitman, Walt
"Pericles Funeral Oration" from "Book II" of <i>History of the Peloponnesian War</i>	Thucydides
"Socrates' Apology"	Plato
"The Chimney Sweepers" poems from Songs of Innocence and Songs of Experience	Blake, William
"Third Philippic"	Demosthenes
"To the Public"	Garrison, William Lloyd
"We Wear the Mask"	Dunbar, Paul
Are Women People?	Miller, Alice
Billy Budd	Melville, Herman
Book of Psalms	The Bible
Canterbury Tales (Prologue and selected tales)	Chaucer, Geoffrey
Confessions of St. Augustine	Augustine of Hippo
Dante's Inferno	Alighieri, Dante
Discourse on Method	Descartes, Rene
Jane Eyre	Bronte, Charlotte
Julius Caesar	Shakespeare, William
Night	Wiesel, Elie
On Duties	Cicero
On the Social Contract	Rousseau, Jean-Jacques
One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich	Solzhenitsyn, Aleksandr
The Dreamer	Ryan, Pam Muñoz
The Federalist Papers	Hamilton, Alexander; Madison, James; and Jay, John
The First Philippics of Cicero against Marcus Antonius	Cicero
The Spirit of Laws	Montesquieu
The Surrender Tree	
The Surrender Tree	Engle, Margarita
Two Treatises of Government	Engle, Margarita  Locke, John



Title	Author
Crime and Punishment	Dostoevsky, Fyodor
Don Quixote	Cervantes, Miguel de
Flatland: A Romance of Many Dimensions	Abbott, Edwin A.
Hamlet	Shakespeare, William
Heart of Darkness	Conrad, Joseph
King Lear	Shakespeare, William
Life of Julius Caesar	Plutarch
Longitude: The True Story of a Lone Genius Who Solved the Greatest Scientific Problem of His Time	Sobel, Dava
Pride and Prejudice	Austen, Jane
Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead	Stoppard, Tom
The Republic	Plato
The Twelve Caesars	Suetonius
Utopia	More, Thomas
The poetry of Robert Burns	Burns, Robert
The poetry of Countee Cullen	Cullen, Countee
The poetry of Emily Dickinson	Dickinson, Emily
The poetry of John Donne	Donne, John
The poetry of Robert Frost	Frost, Robert
The poetry of Langston Hughes	Hughes, Langston
The poetry of Percy Bysshe Shelley	Shelley, Percy Bysshe
The poetry of Edna St. Vincent Millay	Millay, Edna St. Vincent
The poetry of Phillis Wheatley	Wheatley, Phillis