



Union School Summer Reading Program 2025–2026

Welcome Message from the Union School ELA Department

Union School’s English Language Arts Department warmly welcomes families and students to our newly redesigned Summer Reading Program. Reading is central to student learning, as it strengthens comprehension, writing, vocabulary, and critical thinking.

This year, we are implementing a restructured format as part of our continuous effort to innovate ways to build strong readers, writers, and critical thinkers. To better serve individual student needs, the reading lists are now organized by *Lexile bands* rather than grade levels.

What Are Lexile Bands?

Lexile bands are reading ranges that help students choose books that match their reading level. A student’s Lexile level shows their reading ability, while a book’s Lexile measure shows the text’s difficulty.

A Lexile score measures the complexity of a text based primarily on vocabulary and sentence structure. It does not measure the maturity of themes, literary quality, emotional depth, or how difficult a book is to analyze. Some books with lower Lexile levels contain sophisticated themes and ideas, while some books with higher Lexile levels may simply use more advanced vocabulary. Students should consider both the Lexile level and their interests when selecting a book.

According to [MeataMetrics](#), the typical Lexile ranges for reading comprehension generally align with the following grade levels:

Grade Level	Lexile Range
Kindergarten	BR (Beginning Reader) – 300L
1st Grade	190L – 530L
2nd Grade	420L – 650L
3rd Grade	520L – 820L
4th Grade	740L – 940L
5th Grade	830L – 1010L
6th Grade	925L – 1070L
7th Grade	970L – 1120L
8th Grade	1010L – 1185L
9th Grade	1050L – 1260L

Click [HERE](#) to access the Union School Elementary Reading List

Click [HERE](#) to access the Union School Secondary Reading List

Guidelines and Expectations

Before the summer break, students received their NWEA MAP results from their teachers, which contain their Lexile levels.

Students should select books that interest them while also providing an appropriate academic challenge. To support continued growth, students are encouraged to choose books within or slightly above their Lexile band.

Some books include Lexile codes that explain the type or format of the text:

- **AD (Adult Directed):** Best read aloud to a student (Lower Elementary)
- **NC (Non-Conforming):** Age-appropriate content with a higher Lexile level.
- **HL (High-Low):** Engaging content for older students written at a lower reading level.
- **GN (Graphic Novel):** Presented in image/ comic novel format.
- **IG (Illustrated Guide):** Nonfiction or reference-style text with many visuals.
- **NP (Non-Prose):** Poems, plays, songs, recipes, or similar formats.
- **BR (Beginning Reader):** Books with a Lexile measure below 0L.

Access to Books

Summer reading titles may be:

- borrowed from the Secondary book room by June 26, 2026
- ordered through Amazon
- purchased from bookstores or retailers

***If you are interested in borrowing books from the Secondary book room, please contact Mrs. Hatendi at philippa.hatendi@unionschool.edu.ht**

Summer Reading Assessment

Students will complete a summer reading assessment during the first two weeks of school. The assessment will count as a formative grade for Quarter 1 and will be reflected in the September progress report. On the assessment, students must indicate their Lexile level and confirm that their selected book is at or above that level.

Family Support

Families are encouraged to help students choose books that are interesting, purposeful, and appropriately challenging. Reading within or above a student's Lexile level supports continued reading growth and helps students prepare for the new school year.

Elementary List Per Lexile Level

Elementary List	
30L to 50L	
AD30L	We Play At School by Adeline J. Zimmerman
30 to 140L	The Bag by Tin Janvier
25L - 230 L	
NP-to 530L	Baby Animals by Addie Vaughters
50L	Things That Glow by Marie Widmeyer
50L	Dot the Pig by Cecilia Minden
460 to NC780	Celebrating Earth Day by Katie Peters
BR85L- 915L	
BR 20L	The Pup and Don by Dufresne Michele
BR 40L	Millo's Earth Day by Lucie Miller
BR 50L	Our class counts to 100 by Lucie Miller
BR 60L	Going to school around the world by Lucie Miller
BR10L	Who's in Ada's Family by Lucie Miller
140L	Hen in the Pen & Peg on the Run by Bethany Latha
170L	Just Like Nana by Lucie Miller
210L	Mud on the Cab & A Tag on a Bag by Charis Mather
330L	Caterpillar, Caterpillar, Touch your Toes by Kelley M Likes
470L	The Little Mermaid by C.C. Oven
510L	Sleepover for Three by C.L. Reid
610L	If I like helping people, what jobs could I do? By O'Brien, Cynthia
720L	Prince Noah and the School Pirates by Silke Schnee
810L	Red Hart Magic by Andre Norton
340- 1125	
AD 450L to 440L	Say Hola to Spanish by Susan Middleton
AD 470L	It's Only the Wind by Mindy Dwyer
GN490	Three Kingdoms Volume 02: The Family Plot by Wei Don Cheng
340L	Why Animals Hibernate by Candice Ransom
370L	What Causes Thunder and Lightning by Candice Ransom

430L-540L	At The Show by Marley Richmond
440L	Eric, The Boy Who Lost His Gravity by Jenni Desmond
470L	Papa's House, Mama's House by Jean Lee C. Patindol
630L	The Secret Burrow by Kelley Barth
630L	Backup Goalie: Champion Edition by Jake Maddox
630L to 670L	The Portal by Mari Bolte
650L	The Story of Soap by Gloria Koster
680L	We Will Need Space Colonies by Bethany Latham
740L	The Purloining of Prince Oleomargarine by Mark Twain
740L	Dragon vs. Griffin by Thomas Kingsley Troupe
750L	10-Minute True Ghoulisn Graveyard Stories by Jamie Michalak
760L	The Unsinkable Molly Brown by K.A. Hale
910L	Edie in Between by Laura Sibson

Secondary List Per Lexile Level

Secondary	
Lexile	Book Title
BR70 to 1370	Animal Farm
GN380 to GN500	Persepolis
GN420	Monster: A Graphic Novel
NP370	The Glass Menagerie
430 to 730L	Jane Eyre
451L	Fahrenheit 451
480 to 950L	Frankenstein
520L	Don Quixote
520 to 680	The City of Ember
590L	Night by Elie Wiesel
620L	Percy Jackson: The Last Olympian
640L	The Girl Who Drank the Moon
660L	Holes
680L	The Jumbies
680L	Shine
720L	Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library
730 to 800L	Ghost
730L	The Book Thief
740L	A Wrinkle in Time
770 to 780L	Trevor Noah: Born a Crime
770 to 940L	Lord of the Flies
790L	Peter Nimble and His Fantastic Eyes
790L	Wonder
800 to 1310L	The Canterbury Tales
810L	Bridge to Terabithia
810L	Running Star
820L	Paradise Lost
840L	The Secret Life of Bees
840L	Izzy Barr, Running Star
840L	EllRay Jakes is Not a Chicken

860 to 890L	Renegades
870 to 1400L	Invisible Man
870L	The House on Mango Street
890L	Things Fall Apart
1010L	The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao
1020L	Diary of Anne Frank
1060L	Dracula
1090L	1984
1120L	Midnight's Children
1140 to 1430L	The Origin of Species
1180L	Sense and Sensibility
1230L	The Souls of Black Folk
1290L	Iliad/Odyssey
1330L	Roots
1330L	The Interpretation of Dreams
1390L	Dante's Divine Comedy: The Inferno:
1440L	On Liberty
Above 1440L	Choose a book from the Secondary Stretch Reads Section. Stretch Reads usually refers to reading material that is slightly above a reader's current comfort or skill level. Stretch reads typically have advanced vocabulary, deeper themes, and more sophisticated writing styles. These titles are intended to provide an appropriate level of challenge and are available for students whose Lexile level may exceed the books listed in their designated range.

Secondary Stretch Reads

Stretch Reads

Grades 9 and up

- Long Night of White Chickens
- *The Historian* by Elizabeth Kostova- Historical Mystery
- *The Hobbit* by JRR Tolkien- Fantasy
- *Code Name Verity* by Elizabeth Wein- Historical Fiction
- *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* by Mark Haddon- Mystery
- *Into the Wild* by Jon Krakauer- Nonfiction
- The Count of Monte Cristo by Alexandre Dumas- Classic Adventure
- *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot- Nonfiction
- *A Wizard of Earthsea* by Ursula K. Le Guin- Science Fiction & Fantasy

Grades 11 and 12

- Habits of Highly Effective People by Stephen R. Covey
- Educated by Tara Westover
- The Catcher in the Rye by Jerome David
- One Hundred Years of Solitude by Gabriel Garcia Marquez
- Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen
- The Alchemist by Paul Coelho
- The Red Badge of Courage
- The Last of the Mohicans
- The Good Earth by Pearl S. Buck
- Absalom, Absalom by William Faulkner
- Foxfire: Confessions of a Gang Girl
- Adventures of Roderick Random

AP and College Level

- Don Quixote by Miguel de Cervantes
- Paradise Lost by John Milton