

***Marvin Redpost: Why Pick on Me?*, by Louis Sachar – Lexile 290, 64 pages**

The Marvin Redpost series, by Louis Sachar, is a wonderful series for third-graders, not only for its readability but also for its humor. Your students will laugh out loud as they read this book, and will beg to read the rest of the books in this series. I recommend placing your students who are reading below grade level in this text.

***Marvin Redpost: Why Pick on Me?* Text Complexity**

QUALITATIVE MEASURES	QUANTITATIVE MEASURES
<p><b>Levels of Meaning</b> The central message of this text is that it isn't fair to pick on people. Additional themes relate to right and wrong and respecting others.</p> <p><b>Structure</b> Overall, the narrative uses a fairly simple, explicit, and conventional story structure.</p> <p><b>Language Conventionalilty and Clarity</b> Louis Sachar uses language that is literal and clear.</p> <p><b>Knowledge Demands</b> The characters in this text look at issues of right and wrong from two very different perspectives, causing the reader to challenge his or her own perspective. General background knowledge about how people define their moral code is needed.</p>	<p>The Lexile level for <i>Marvin Redpost: Why Pick on Me?</i> is 290, based on word frequency and sentence length. This is below the range of the complexity band for 2<sup>nd</sup>–3<sup>rd</sup> grade according to the Common Core State Standards.</p> <p><b>READER TASK CONSIDERATIONS</b></p> <p>These should be determined locally with reference to motivation, knowledge, and experiences as well as to purpose and the complexity of the tasks assigned and the questions posed.</p>

***Jake Drake, Bully Buster*, by Andrew Clements – Lexile 460, 67 pages**

The Jake Drake series, by Andrew Clements, is a slightly more challenging series than the Marvin Redpost series due to its complex structure and qualitative demands. The story is written in flashback, and has a strong message that all students who have ever been picked on or bullied at school will relate to. I recommend placing students who are reading on grade level in this text.

***Jake Drake, Bully Buster* Text Complexity**

QUALITATIVE MEASURES	QUANTITATIVE MEASURES
<p><b>Levels of Meaning</b> The text offers multiple themes related to right and wrong. These themes include the importance of understanding the perspectives of other people and what it takes to build friendships. These themes will lead students to the central message, which is that it isn't fun to be mean.</p> <p><b>Structure</b> The challenge of this text is its complex structure. The main story is told through a flashback—Jake Drake is telling the story of how he overcame a bully when he was in the second grade.</p> <p><b>Language Conventionalilty and Clarity</b> Andrew Clements uses language that is fairly literal and clear.</p> <p><b>Knowledge Demands</b> This text provides multiple themes. In this text, the characters look at issues of right and wrong from different perspectives, causing the reader to challenge his or her own perspective. General background knowledge about how people define their moral code is needed.</p>	<p>The Lexile level for <i>Jake Drake: Bully Buster</i> is 460, based on word frequency and sentence length. This is in the lower range of the complexity band for 2<sup>nd</sup>–3<sup>rd</sup> grade according to the Common Core State Standards.</p> <p><b>READER TASK CONSIDERATIONS</b></p> <p>These should be determined locally with reference to motivation, knowledge, and experiences as well as to purpose and the complexity of the tasks assigned and the questions posed.</p>

***Beezus and Ramona*, by Beverly Cleary – Lexile 780, 183 pages**

*Beezus and Ramona*, by Beverly Cleary, is a classic favorite of many young children and teachers. Students will be captivated by Cleary’s humorous writing style woven throughout the book. This book is written in the third person, which may present an additional challenge for third-graders. I recommend placing students who are reading above grade level in this text.

***Beezus and Ramona*, Text Complexity**

QUALITATIVE MEASURES	QUANTITATIVE MEASURES
<p><b>Levels of Meaning</b> The text offers nuances of abstract concepts related to right and wrong and family relationships. Beezus struggles to like her sister, Ramona, when she is naughty.</p>	<p>The Lexile level for <i>Beezus and Ramona</i> is 780, based on word frequency and sentence length. This is in the lower range of the complexity band for 4th-5<sup>th</sup> grade according to the Common Core State Standards.</p>
<p><b>Structure</b> Overall, the narrative uses a fairly simple, explicit, and conventional story structure. The story is written in the third person.</p>	<p><b>READER TASK CONSIDERATIONS</b></p>
<p><b>Language Conventionalty and Clarity</b> Beverly Cleary uses language that is fairly literal and clear. Challenges emerge through the author’s use of humor.</p>	<p>These should be determined locally with reference to motivation, knowledge, and experiences as well as to purpose and the complexity of the tasks assigned and the questions posed.</p>
<p><b>Knowledge Demands</b> General background knowledge about family relationships is needed.</p>	