

***Julian’s Glorious Summer*, by Ann Cameron – Lexile 480, 64 pages**

The Julian series, by Ann Cameron, is a wonderful series for third-graders, not only for its readability but also for its relatable characters and plotlines. Your students will likely be interested in reading the rest of the books in this series after this one. I recommend placing your students who are reading below grade level in this text.

***Julian’s Glorious Summer* Text Complexity**

QUALITATIVE MEASURES	QUANTITATIVE MEASURES
<p>Levels of Meaning The central message of this text is that it isn’t right to lie to others. Additional themes relate to respecting others.</p> <p>Structure Overall, the narrative uses a fairly simple, explicit, and conventional story structure.</p> <p>Language Conventinality and Clarity Although the language used is generally familiar, clear, and conversational, Ann Cameron uses some ambiguous language in the text.</p> <p>Knowledge Demands General background knowledge about how people define their moral code is needed.</p>	<p>The Lexile level for <i>Julian’s Glorious Summer</i> is 480, based on word frequency and sentence length. This is below the range of the complexity band for 2nd–3rd grade according to the Common Core State Standards.</p> <p>READER TASK CONSIDERATIONS</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>

***Abby Takes a Stand*, by Patricia McKissack – Lexile 580, 112 pages**

The Scraps of Time series, by Patricia McKissack, is a slightly more challenging series than the Julian series, due to its complex genre and qualitative demands. The story is written in flashback and tells about what life was like for a young black girl living in Nashville, Tennessee, during 1960, when the South was still segregated. I recommend placing students who are reading on grade level in this text.

***Abby Takes a Stand* Text Complexity**

QUALITATIVE MEASURES	QUANTITATIVE MEASURES
<p>Levels of Meaning There are multiple themes throughout the book, increasing the complexity of the text. Themes include human rights, freedom, peace, love vs. hate, and right vs. wrong. The central theme students will focus on throughout the book is that segregation is wrong—it is right for all people to have the same freedoms.</p> <p>Structure One challenge of this text is its complex structure. The main story is told through a flashback—Abby is telling the story of what life was like growing up in the South in 1960.</p> <p>Language Conventinality and Clarity Figurative language, historical language, and dialect all add depth and challenge to this text.</p> <p>Knowledge Demands The genre, historical fiction, requires a great deal of background knowledge about the time period. Readers will have to separate fact from fiction as they read.</p>	<p>The Lexile level for <i>Abby Takes a Stand</i> is 580, based on word frequency and sentence length. This is in the middle range of the complexity band for 2nd–3rd grade according to the Common Core State Standards.</p> <p>READER TASK CONSIDERATIONS</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>

***Freedom Train*, by Evelyn Coleman – Lexile 740, 140 pages**

Freedom Train, by Evelyn Coleman, like *Abby Takes a Stand*, is historical fiction. Students will learn about what it was like for a young white boy living in the segregated South during 1947. Historical language and dialect make this text challenging for young readers. I recommend placing students who are reading above grade level in this text.

***Freedom Train* Text Complexity**

QUALITATIVE MEASURES	QUANTITATIVE MEASURES
<p>Levels of Meaning There are multiple themes throughout the book, increasing the complexity of the text. Themes include human rights, freedom, peace, love vs. hate, and right vs. wrong. The central theme students will focus on throughout the book is that it is wrong to treat people differently because of the color of their skin—it is right to treat people equally.</p> <p>Structure Overall, the narrative uses a fairly simple, explicit, and conventional story structure.</p> <p>Language Conventinality and Clarity Figurative language, as well as historical language and dialect, adds depth and challenge to the text.</p> <p>Knowledge Demands The genre, historical fiction, requires a great deal of background knowledge about the time period. Readers will have to separate fact from fiction as they read.</p>	<p>The Lexile level for <i>Freedom Train</i> is 740, based on word frequency and sentence length. This is in the upper range of the complexity band for 2nd–3rd grade according to the Common Core State Standards.</p> <p>READER TASK CONSIDERATIONS</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>