

***The Year of Miss Agnes*, by Kirkpatrick Hill – Lexile 790, 113 pages**

I love using this beautifully written, simple text with upper elementary students because the story is written for their age group. While there are many characters to keep track of, the story itself is simple and straightforward. I recommend placing your students who are reading below grade level in this text.

***The Year of Miss Agnes* Text Complexity**

QUALITATIVE MEASURES	QUANTITATIVE MEASURES
<p><b>Levels of Meaning</b> The text offers multiple levels of meaning and nuances of abstract concepts related to family, overcoming hardships, and the pioneering spirit.</p> <p><b>Structure</b> This narrative is told in chronological order. However, the main character in the story recounts events that happened in the past that have impacted the present time. Students will need to understand these past events and how they are connected to the main plot of the story.</p> <p><b>Language Conventionality and Clarity</b> The genre of this story adds some complexity to the language. Dialogue that incorporates historical and regional language makes this text qualitatively challenging.</p> <p><b>Knowledge Demands</b> This text requires knowledge of the genre historical fiction. Students may need additional support while visualizing the setting of the story.</p>	<p>The Lexile level for <i>The Year of Miss Agnes</i> is 790, based on word frequency and sentence length. This is in the lower range of the complexity band for 4th–5th 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>

***Riding Freedom*, by Pam Muñoz Ryan – Lexile 720, 134 pages**

This fictional story, based on the true life of Charlotte Darkey Parkhurst, is a story your students won't forget! While the Lexile level is lower than that of *The Year of Miss Agnes*, the progression of the story through time and across places adds a qualitative depth to this text that makes it a perfect fit for on-grade-level readers. Students reading this book will be challenged by historical language and dialect.

***Riding Freedom* Text Complexity**

QUALITATIVE MEASURES	QUANTITATIVE MEASURES
<p><b>Levels of Meaning</b> The text offers multiple levels of meaning and nuances of abstract concepts related to freedom, overcoming hardships, and the pioneering spirit.</p> <p><b>Structure</b> This narrative is told in chronological order. However, <b>gaps in time make this story more challenging for the reader.</b></p> <p><b>Language Conventionalty and Clarity</b> The genre of this story adds some complexity to the language. Dialogue that incorporates historical and regional language makes this text qualitatively challenging.</p> <p><b>Knowledge Demands</b> This text requires knowledge of the genre historical fiction. Students may need additional support while visualizing the setting of the story.</p>	<p>The Lexile level for <i>Riding Freedom</i> is 720, 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><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>

***The Sign of the Beaver*, by Elizabeth George Speare – Lexile 770, 135 pages**

I recommend placing students who are on or above grade level in this engaging text. Students will be challenged by multiple themes introduced across this text, as well as by historical language and dialect.

***The Sign of the Beaver* Text Complexity**

QUALITATIVE MEASURES	QUANTITATIVE MEASURES
<p><b>Levels of Meaning</b> The text offers multiple levels of meaning and nuances of abstract concepts related to freedom, overcoming hardships, and the pioneering spirit. In addition, students will have to consider the cause and effect relationships related to westward expansion.</p> <p><b>Structure</b> This narrative is told in chronological order. A parallel story (<i>Robinson Crusoe</i>) is interspersed throughout the text.</p> <p><b>Language Conventinality and Clarity</b> The genre of this story adds some complexity to the language. Dialogue that incorporates historical and regional language makes this text qualitatively challenging.</p> <p><b>Knowledge Demands</b> This text requires knowledge of the genre historical fiction. Students may need additional support while visualizing the setting of the story.</p>	<p>The Lexile level for <i>The Sign of the Beaver</i> is 770, based on word frequency and sentence length. This is in the lower range of the complexity band for 4th–5th 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>