

***Among the Hidden*, by Margaret Peterson Haddix – Lexile 800, 153 pages**

While this book is quantitatively high in comparison to *First Light*, this book is most appropriate for fifth graders who are reading below grade level and/or have low reading stamina. The plot of the story is told chronologically and is straightforward, and the length of the text is appropriate for fifth graders who are building their reading stamina. Students who read this book will be excited to read the rest of the books in the series on their own!

***Among the Hidden* Text Complexity**

QUALITATIVE MEASURES	QUANTITATIVE MEASURES
<p><b>Levels of Meaning</b> The central message of this text is that people will go to extreme measure to protect others from harm. Additional themes relate to family and friendship.</p> <p><b>Structure</b> Memories of the past are woven throughout this chronological story, adding to the challenge of this text.</p> <p><b>Language Conventionalty and Clarity</b> The language used throughout this text is generally familiar and clear.</p> <p><b>Knowledge Demands</b> This text requires knowledge of the genre science fiction.</p>	<p>The Lexile level for <i>Among the Hidden</i> is 800, based on word frequency and sentence length. This is in the upper 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>

***First Light*, by Rebecca Stead – Lexile 760, 328 pages**

While this book is quantitatively lower in comparison to *Among the Hidden*, this book is most appropriate for fifth graders who are reading on or above grade level due to the qualitative demand of the text. Students will be challenged by the complex plot, which alternates between Thea and Peter’s stories. In addition, details of the past are revealed across the text in an unconventional order. Students will have to keep track of multiple plot details and multiple characters across generations. I recommend placing students have strong reading comprehension and stamina in this text.

***First Light* Text Complexity**

QUALITATIVE MEASURES	QUANTITATIVE MEASURES
<p><b>Levels of Meaning</b> The central message of this text is that people will go to extreme measure to protect others from harm. Additional themes relate to family and survival.</p> <p><b>Structure</b> This story uses a complex story structure. Two distinct plot lines interlace across the text. Stories from the past add depth to the plot.</p> <p><b>Language Conventionality and Clarity</b> Dialogue that incorporates regional language makes this text qualitatively challenging. Figurative language and symbolism also add qualitative depth.</p> <p><b>Knowledge Demands</b> This text requires knowledge of the genre science fiction. In addition, students will need to rely on background knowledge of the Greenland and the threat of global warming.</p>	<p>The Lexile level for <i>First Light</i> is 760, 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>

**Code Orange, by Caroline B. Cooney – Lexile 850, 195 pages**

Both the quantitative and qualitative level of *Code Orange* makes it most appropriate for fifth graders who are reading on or above grade level. While the story is told chronologically, the unconventional layering of fiction and nonfiction will challenge students as they read the text. Students will have to compare events of the past to events of the present in order to make predictions. Due to the mature topic of this text (the threat of terrorism and bioterrorism shortly after 9-11), teachers should consider the maturity level of the student when placing students in this text.

**Code Orange Text Complexity**

QUALITATIVE MEASURES	QUANTITATIVE MEASURES
<p><b>Levels of Meaning</b> The central message of this text is that people will go to extreme measure to protect the world from harm. Additional themes relate to family, friendship, and survival.</p> <p><b>Structure</b> This story is told chronologically and written in the third person. Nonfiction is woven throughout this fictional story.</p> <p><b>Language Conventionality and Clarity</b> Figurative language adds qualitative depth.</p> <p><b>Knowledge Demands</b> This text requires knowledge of the genre science fiction. In addition, students will need to rely on background knowledge of New York City and the events of 9-11.</p>	<p>The Lexile level for <i>Code Orange</i> is 850, based on word frequency and sentence length. This is in the upper 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>