

DIFFERENTIATED READING LIST

Provided by Dr. Katie McKnight's Engaging Learners



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Dr. Katie McKnight*

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DIFFERENTIATED READING LIST EXAMPLES

GRADES 11 - 12

Center(s)

Reading Together

Explanation of Reading Lists

Literacy and Learning Centers require you to divide your students into small groups. I recommend that you group students not based on ability, but based on the texts they choose. In other words, each student selects the text that most interests him/her, and is placed in a group with the other students who picked the same text. This doesn't mean anything goes! The teacher or curriculum director should supply a selection of texts that all address the same basic literary themes, cover the same content, or address the same essential question.

It's ok to start small. Work on adding one or two reading lists every year.

You'll see that giving students a choice in what to read brings about significant gains in their engagement, productivity, and growth. But maybe the greatest advantage of giving students a choice of reading material, is that students of varied ability levels and interests *all* have an opportunity to engage with their reading.

The **Text Complexity Model** has three equal components. Choosing which texts to include in your class reading lists means *you must do more than consider quantitative measures!*

The three components to consider are:

1. Quantitative Measures.

These factors are difficult or impossible for a person to evaluate efficiently so they are typically measured by computer software. Examples of quantitative measures include students' standardized test scores and a books' assigned Lexile scores.

2. Qualitative Dimensions.

These characteristics must be evaluated by a teacher. They include considering levels of meaning (for literary texts) or purpose (for informational texts), as well as structure, language conventionality and clarity, and knowledge demands.

3. Reader and Task Considerations.

This component is best evaluated by a teacher like you, who understands his or her students. It requires assessing the reader's motivation, knowledge, and experiences, as well as the assessing the purpose and complexity of a text.

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It helps to review examples of reading lists that other teachers have used effectively. Please use these examples as inspiration. Feel free to borrow what works and adapt as necessary to suit your needs and the needs of your students.

The book lists below represent a selection of fictional and non-fictional texts that are suitable for use with the Literacy and Learning Center model.

Explore the EngagingLearners.com website for other resources about differentiated reading (webinars, tips, etc.) to help you create your own reading lists.

Remember, coming up with reading lists is an on-going process. Even after you find a “perfect” booklist, realize that it may not be perfect forever. As you find new titles, as your school’s curriculum changes, and as student interests evolve, it’s likely you’ll want to make revisions and adjustments.

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Eleventh-Twelfth Grade <i>Topic: Leaving Home</i>		
<i>Essential Question: How do we make sure to stay true to ourselves when heading out on our own?</i>		
<i>Text Complexity</i>	<i>Book Title</i>	<i>Author</i>
9th-12th grade	Great Expectations	Charles Dickens
6th-12th grade	The Kidney Hypothetical: Or How to Ruin Your Life in Seven Days	Lisa Yee
8th-12th grade	Our Town	Thornton Wilder
9th-11th grade	Jane Eyre	Charlotte Bronte
11th-12th grade	The Left Hand of Darkness	Ursula Le Guin
9th-12th grade	The Grapes of Wrath	John Steinbeck
8th-12th grade	The Secret Side of Empty	Maria E. Andreu
9th-12th grade	The Namesake	Jhumpa Lahiri
11th-12th grade	Drown	Junot Diaz
10th-12th grade	Lucy	Jamaica Kincaid
11th-12th grade	Childe Harold's Pilgrimage	Lord Byron

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Eleventh-Twelfth Grade <i>Topic: Surveillance and Privacy</i>		
<i>Essential Question: What information should people have the right to keep secret?</i>		
<i>Text Complexity</i>	<i>Book Title</i>	<i>Author</i>
8th-11th grade	Little Brother	Cory Doctorow
11th-12th grade	The Minority Report	Philip K. Dick
10th-12th grade	The Circle	Dave Eggers
11th-12th grade	Pride and Prejudice	Jane Austen
11th-12th grade	The House of Mirth	Edith Wharton
8th-11th grade	Free to Fall	Lauren Miller
7th-10th grade	Teen Privacy Rights: A Hot Issue	Deanne Durrett
8th-12th grade	Most Dangerous: Daniel Ellsberg and the Secret History of the Vietnam War	Steve Sheinkin
11th-12th grade	In The Plex: How Google Thinks, Works, and Shapes Our Lives	Steven Levy
10th-12th grade	Weapons of Math Destruction: How Big Data Increases Inequality and Threatens Democracy	Cathy O'Neil

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Eleventh-Twelfth Grade <i>Topic: Artificial Intelligence</i>		
<i>Essential Question: What roles should and shouldn't robots and A.I. play in the 21st century?</i>		
<i>Text Complexity</i>	<i>Book Title</i>	<i>Author</i>
11th-12th grade	The Society of Mind	Marvin Minsky
7th-12th grade	Robot Builder's Bonanza	Gordon McComb
10th-12th grade	Alan Turing: The Enigma	Andrew Hodges
8th-11th grade	Frankenstein	Mary Shelley
10th-12th grade	Flesh and Machines	Rodney Brooks
7th-11th grade	Speaker for the Dead	Orson Scott Card
7th-11th grade	I, Robot	Isaac Asimov
10th-12th grade	unSpun: Finding Facts in a World of Disinformation	Brooks Jackson and Kathleen Hall Jamieson
9th-12th grade	Introducing Game Theory: A Graphic Guide	Ivan Pastine and Tuvana Pastine
11th-12th grade	Superintelligence: Paths, Dangers, Strategies	Nick Bostrom
9th-12th grade	The New Cool: A Visionary Teacher, His FIRST Robotics Team, and the Ultimate Battle of Smarts	Neal Bascomb
11th-12th grade	Virtual Girl	Amy Thomson

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Eleventh-Twelfth Grade <i>Topic: Business and Management</i>		
<i>Essential Question: How much do personal relationships impact the business world?</i>		
<i>Text Complexity</i>	<i>Book Title</i>	<i>Author</i>
11th-12th grade	The Last Tycoon	F. Scott Fitzgerald
10th-12th grade	Dombey and Son	Charles Dickens
8th-11th grade	Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistle Stop Cafe	Fannie Flagg
11th-12th grade	Something Happened	Joseph Heller
10th-12th grade	Rare Objects	Kathleen Tessaro
9th-12th grade	The Obstacle is the Way	Ryan Holiday
11th-12th grade	True North: Discover Your Authentic Leadership	Bill George
11th-12th grade	Thinking, Fast and Slow	Daniel Kahnemann
11th-12th grade	Reinventing the Bazaar: A Natural History of Markets	John McMillan
10th-12th grade	Grand Pursuit: The Story of Economic Genius	Sylvia Nasar

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Eleventh-Twelfth Grade <i>Topic: The City</i>		
<i>Essential Question: How do the realities of city living change individuals?</i>		
<i>Text Complexity</i>	<i>Book Title</i>	<i>Author</i>
8th-11th grade	Factory Girls: From Village to City in a Changing China	Leslie T. Chang
10th-12th grade	The City in Texas	David McComb
10th-12th grade	Little Fish: A Memoir From A Different Kind of Year	Ramsey Beyer
9th-12th grade	Zoned in the USA: The Origins and Implications of American Land-Use Regulation	Sonia A. Hirt
11th-12th grade	The Historical Atlas of New York City: A Visual Celebration of Nearly 400 Years of New York City's History	Eric Homberger
10th-12th grade	Sister Carrie	Theodore Dreiser
10th-12th grade	Ideal Cities	Erika Meitner
9th-12th grade	Ragtime	E.L. Doctorow
11th-12th grade	Lyrics Alley	Leila Aboulela
9th-12th grade	The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier & Clay	Michael Chabon
11th-12th grade	Miami	Joan Didion

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Eleventh-Twelfth Grade <i>Topic: Diseases of the Mind</i>		
<i>Essential Question: To what extent are people in control of their actions?</i>		
<i>Text Complexity</i>	<i>Book Title</i>	<i>Author</i>
9th-12th grade	Still Alice	Lisa Genova
11th-12th grade	One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest	Ken Kesey
7th-12th grade	The Things They Carried	Tim O'Brien
9th-12th grade	Invincible	Amy Reed
7th-12th grade	The Yellow Wallpaper	Charlotte Perkins Gilman
11th-12th grade	Don Quixote	Miguel de Cervantes
11th-12th grade	Just Checking	Emily Colas
11th-12th grade	Girl, Interrupted	Susanna Kaysen
11th-12th grade	Mad in America: Bad Science, Bad Medicine, and the Enduring Mistreatment of the Mentally Ill	Robert Whitaker
9th-12th grade	50 Human Brain Ideas You Really Need to Know	Moheb Costandi
9th-12th grade	Love, Hate and Reparation	Melanie Klein and Joan Riviere
9th-12th grade	Beethoven: The Universal Composer	Edmund Morris

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Eleventh-Twelfth Grade <i>Topic: American Poetry</i>		
<i>Essential Question: How are the American experience and the American Dream represented in our poetry?</i>		
<i>Text Complexity</i>	<i>Book Title</i>	<i>Author</i>
9th-12th grade	God's Trombones: Seven Negro Sermons in Verse	James Weldon Johnson
11th-12th grade	Lunch Poems	Frank O'Hara
10th-12th grade	The Poems of Emma Lazarus, Volume I: Narrative, Lyric, and Dramatic	Emma Lazarus
10th-12th grade	Selected Poems	Gwendolyn Brooks
9th-12th grade	The Collected Poems of Emily Dickinson	Emily Dickinson
7th-12th grade	Selected Poems	Henry Wadsworth Longfellow
11th-12th grade	Paterson	William Carlos Williams
7th-12th grade	Selected Poems	Wallace Stevens
10th-12th grade	Book of My Nights	Li-Young Lee
9th-12th grade	Collected Poems	Robert Hayden
8th-12th grade	Leaves of Grass	Walt Whitman

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Eleventh-Twelfth Grade <i>Topic: Understanding the Universe</i>		
<i>Essential Question: What is the value of knowing the truth?</i>		
<i>Text Complexity</i>	<i>Book Title</i>	<i>Author</i>
10th-12th grade	A Brief History of Time	Stephen Hawking
9th-12th grade	Origins: Fourteen Billion Years of Cosmic Evolution	Neil deGrasse Tyson and Donald Goldsmith
7th-11th grade	Cosmos	Carl Sagan
11th-12th grade	Galileo's Daughter	Dava Sobel
10th-12th grade	Stargazer: The Life and Times of the Telescope	Fred Watson
9th-11th grade	The Hero with a Thousand Faces	Joseph Campbell
11th-12th grade	The Day We Found the Universe	Marcia Batusiak
9th-12th grade	Siddhartha	Hermann Hesse
11th-12th grade	Star Maker	Olaf Stapledon
10th-12th grade	Bellwether	Connie Willis
11th-12th grade	The Dispossessed	Ursula Le Guin
11th-12th grade	Ficciones	Jorge Luis Borges

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Eleventh-Twelfth Grade <i>Topic: Water</i>		
<i>Essential Question: What is holding the world back from water being safe and abundant for everyone?</i>		
<i>Text Complexity</i>	<i>Book Title</i>	<i>Author</i>
9th-12th grade	Life of Pi	Yann Martel
11th-12th grade	Waiting for the Rain	Charles Mungoshi
11th-12th grade	Dune	Frank Herbert
10th-12th grade	In the Heart of the Sea: The Tragedy of the Whaleship Essex	Nathaniel Philbrick
9th-11th grade	Wide Sargasso Sea	Jean Rhys
11th-12th grade	Blue Revolution: Unmaking America's Water Crisis	Cynthia Barnett
7th-11th grade	The Atlas of Water: Mapping the World's Most Critical Resource	Maggie Black and Jannet King
11th-12th grade	Cadillac Desert	Marc Reisner
10th-12th grade	The End of the Line: How Overfishing Is Changing the World and What We Eat	Charles Clover
7th-11th grade	The Open Ocean (Life In the Sea)	Pam Walker and Elaine Wood