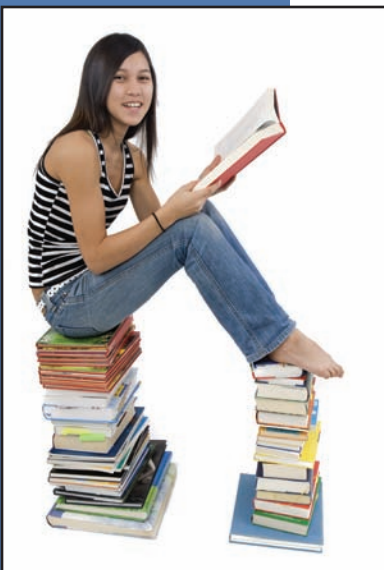




## HOW TO USE LEXILES TO HELP STUDENTS “FIND-A-BOOK” THIS SUMMER

Young people and parents may come into your library this summer with an end-of-grade test report and Lexile measure in hand and ask you to help them find books in a Lexile range that match their interests. The following information should help you assist patrons in these requests.



“find  
- A -  
book”

### WHAT IS A LEXILE MEASURE AND WHERE DO YOUR PATRONS GET ONE?

A Lexile measure can be:

- a measure of a **person’s** reading ability, and
- a measure of a **book’s** textual difficulty.

A Lexile measure is a number with an L after it, such as: **880L**. Because student and book measures are on the same scale, Lexile measures can help to match readers to books and may indicate how well a particular reader will comprehend a specific book.

In North Carolina, public school students in grades 3-8 get a Lexile reader measure on their end-of-grade reading test reports. High school students who take the English I state assessment also receive a Lexile measure. Most students will receive their scores in the last week of school, or by mid-June.

Books also are assigned Lexile measure. Over 100,000 books have Lexile text measures, and more are measured every day. You can find a book’s Lexile measure by using the book database at <http://www.Lexile.com>.

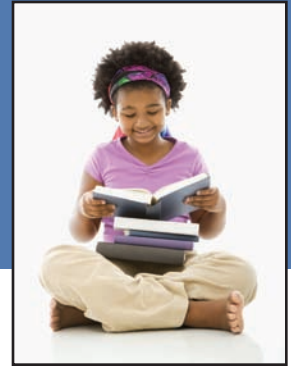
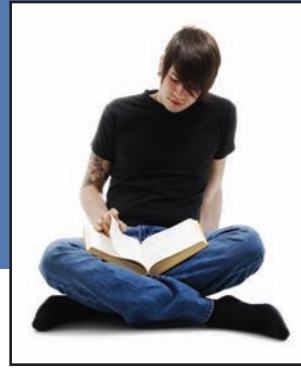
### HOW DO I USE LEXILE MEASURES TO HELP PATRONS “FIND-A-BOOK”?

Help parents and students log on to <http://www.Lexile.com/Findabook>. This Web site will help your patrons match their Lexile measures from a test score with the Lexile measures of books by searching tens of thousands of books on all different subjects at all different developmental levels.

The Find-A-Book site is easy and fun to use just follow these steps:

1. Go to [www.Lexile.com/Findabook](http://www.Lexile.com/Findabook)
2. Enter the patron’s Lexile measure.
3. Have the patron select his or her interest categories.
4. View/refine search results. As you browse books that a young reader finds interesting, click the “Library Lookup” button next to a book’s title to use WorldCat database to see if that book is in your collection.
5. Print the patron’s custom reading list.





### **HOW DO YOU DETERMINE WHAT BOOKS ARE BEST FOR EACH READER?**

Try to find books in a young person's Lexile range, which is from 100L below to 50L above his or her Lexile measure. So a student with a Lexile of 700L will comfortably comprehend books between 600L and 750L while also experiencing the new vocabulary and sentence structures that foster reading growth.

### **SHOULD STUDENTS TRY TO READ BOOKS OUTSIDE OF THEIR LEXILE RANGE?**

It is fine for students to read a book that is above or below their Lexile range. Just remind parents and young people that books below a reader's level may offer little challenge in the way of new vocabulary or complex grammatical structures while books above their level may offer so much of a challenge that a reader will get discouraged.

Books with higher Lexiles can help a reader reach higher.

- Advanced and enthusiastic readers can be challenged with high-interest books above their Lexile range.
- Lexiles can help a parent know when a child might need help through a difficult but interesting book.
- The Find-A-Book Web site can help patrons find additional books on the same subject with a higher Lexile measure.

Books with lower Lexiles can help a reader build skill and confidence.

- Struggling and reluctant readers can find easier books to practice with on topics they are interested in.
- Patrons can combine a Lexile range and developmental level to find easier versions of higher-level books that are still age-appropriate.
- If a book proves to be too difficult for a patron, the Find-A-Book Web site can help them find other books on the same subject with a lower Lexile measure.

### **IS A LEXILE MEASURE THE ONLY THING PATRONS SHOULD WORRY ABOUT WHEN PICKING A BOOK?**

A Lexile measure is a measure of text difficulty only – it does not take into account the subject matter or content of a book. A Lexile measure is just one of many important pieces of information that you can use in your reader's advisory with young people. Make sure parents know they should still consider previewing the books their students choose to read.

### **DO YOU HAVE TO HAVE A LEXILE MEASURE TO USE THE FIND-A-BOOK WEB SITE?**

No. If patrons do not have a Lexile measure, they can instead enter the last grade level they completed and answer a few questions about their reading ability and interests. The Find-a-Book site will then search for books appropriate for the patron's developmental level and interests.

### **WHERE CAN I FIND OUT MORE ABOUT LEXILES?**

Visit [www.Lexile.com](http://www.Lexile.com) or contact Chris Vitiello at [cvitiello@lexile.com](mailto:cvitiello@lexile.com).

