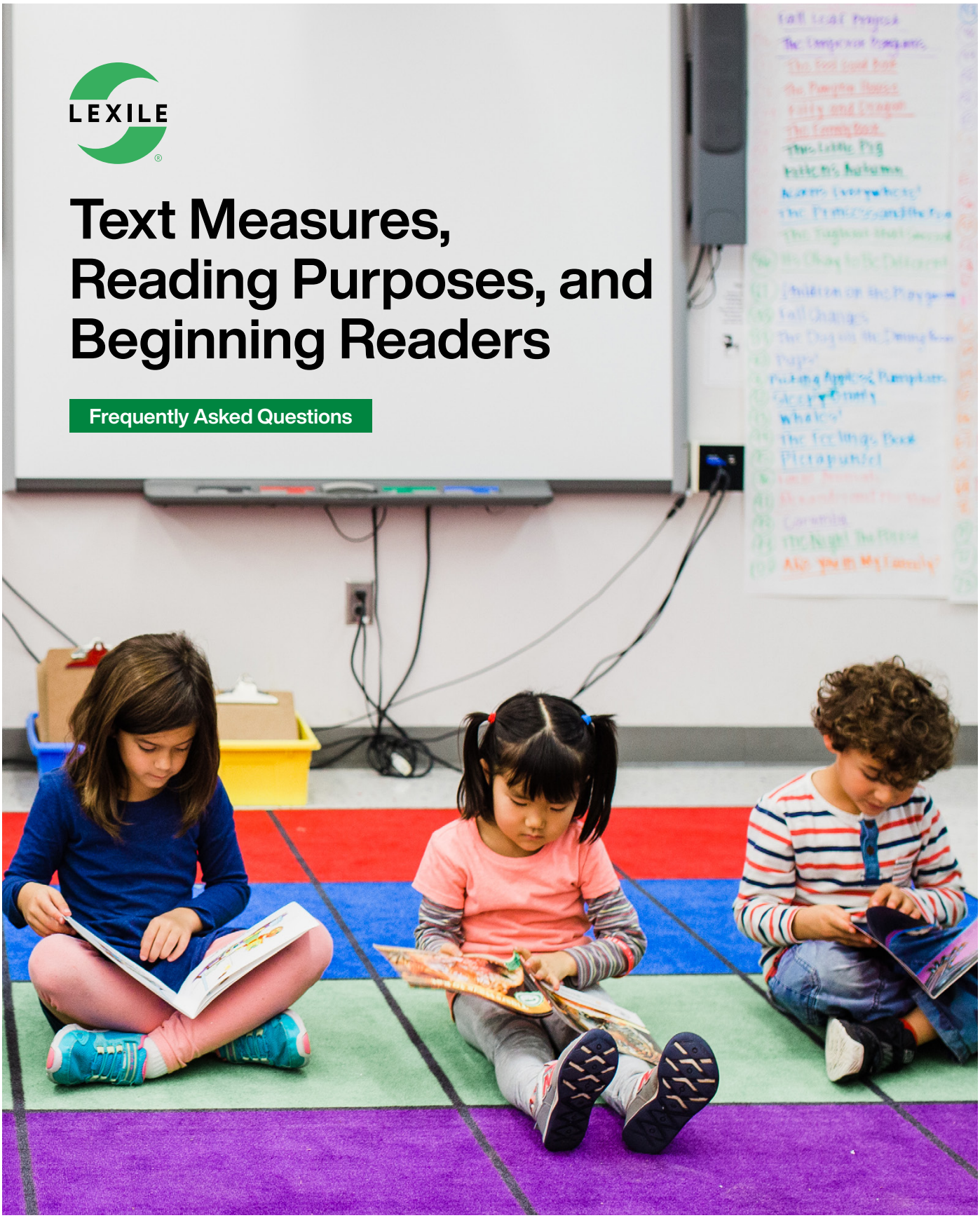
MetaMetrics®

LEXILE®

Text Measures, Reading Purposes, and Beginning Readers

Frequently Asked Questions



Measures That Inspire
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What is an instructional or targeted reading level?

A primary use of Lexile® measures is for forecasting how well students will comprehend texts. When a book's Lexile text measure matches a student's Lexile reading measure, there is an expected 75 percent comprehension rate. For example, a student with a Lexile reading measure of 1000L, is expected to comprehend approximately 75 percent of a 1000L book. A 75 percent comprehension rate is the default rate used for reading instruction and is called targeted reading. In targeted reading, students should not be frustrated by losing the meaning-thread of the text, but should encounter new vocabulary and sentence structures that promote reading growth.

A targeted Lexile reading range spans 50L above to 100L below a student's Lexile reading measure. For example, a 1000L student can stretch their ability by selecting books from 900L to 1050L based on a 70 to 80 percent comprehension range.

Students need to be challenged continually to become better readers. In general, students should choose texts lower in their Lexile range when factors make the reading situation more challenging or unfamiliar. They should select texts at or above their range to stimulate growth when highly motivated or offered assistance through a teacher or additional support such as background teaching or discussion.

What are factors to consider in helping students to select books?

Lexile measures are one of several factors to consider when making text selections. Support students and grow their love of reading by considering:

- Quantitative factors such as Lexile measures.
- Qualitative factors for the student (interests, motivation, age, maturity).
- Qualitative factors for the text (complexity of ideas and themes, style, quality, graphic supports).
- Purpose for reading (assignment, pleasure, discovery, research, etc.).

LEXILE FIND A BOOK

Your customers can search for books by interest and reading level with the popular Lexile® Find a Book tool at hub.lexile.com/find-a-book/.

What about Lexile measures for students beginning to read?

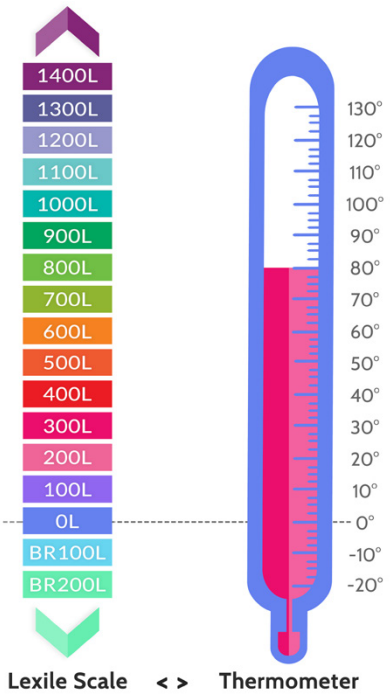
A Beginning Reader (BR) Lexile code is given to students and texts that have measures below 0L on the Lexile scale. A Lexile measure of BR100L indicates that the Lexile measure is 100 units below 0L.

Just as -10° is warmer than -30° on a thermometer, a BR100L book is more complex than a BR300L book. A student reading at BR100L is a more advanced reader than a student reading at BR300L.

The BR Lexile code is a search filter on Lexile Find a Book. Your customers can find Beginning Reader books at hub.lexile.com/find-a-book/.

Assessments reporting Lexile reading measures can assess even emerging literacy skills. Audio-supported test items assess preliteracy skills including alphabet knowledge, phonological awareness, and phonics.

Interpreting Beginning Reader



What makes a book easy or hard for a student beginning to read?

MetaMetrics® researched the unique properties of texts for students beginning to read and found that there are four categories of text indicators—patterning, sentences, vocabulary, and decoding.

- Patterning: Low demand texts have more repeated words and phrases. Harder texts have fewer repeating words and phrases and place a higher demand on the reader.
- Sentences: Low demand texts have shorter sentences and more words that overlap between sentences. Texts that put a higher demand on the reader have longer sentences and fewer words.
- Vocabulary: Low demand texts have more common, familiar and concrete vocabulary. Texts that have more rare, unfamiliar and abstract words place a higher demand on the reader.
- Decoding: Low demand texts have words with fewer syllables and simpler sounds (e.g., “net” and “shop”). Higher demand texts have words with more syllables and more complex sounds (e.g., “balloon” and “ceremony”).

LEXILE
FIND A DECODABLE BOOK

To support decoding, your customers can search for books by vowel sounds with the Lexile® Find a Decodable Book tool at hub.lexile.com/find-a-decodable-book/.

LEXILE
DECODABLE PASSAGES

MetaMetrics also offers Lexile® Decodable Passages. These printable passages for students to practice specific phonics skills are accessible at hub.lexile.com/resource-center/.

Access to tools and resources varies by Lexile® and Quantile® Hub membership tier.

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