

Transitioning to YA Reading

Note: All books are located in the YA Fiction section.
Parentheses note (Lexile Level/AR Level).
Interest level for all books listed here are grades 5/6-8.

R

Realistic Fiction

Goodbye Stranger by Rebecca Stead (560/3.9/7)
Well, That Was Awkward by Rachel Veil (HL620L/4.3/8)
Water Balloon by Audrey Vernick(630/3.8/8)
Booked by Kwame Alexander (660/3.9/3)
Mockingbird by Kathryn Erskine (630/3.6/5)
Unfriended by Rachel Veil (670/4.4/8)
Half Brother by Kenneth Oppall(680/4.4/13)
Lost in the Sun by Lisa Graff (700/4.5/11)
The Thing About Jellyfish by Ali Benjamin (740/5/7)
I Funny by James Patterson(610/3.9/4)
Counting by 7's by Holly Goldberg Sloan (770/5.6/10)
Ungifted by Gordan Korman (730/5.2/8)
Loser by Jerry Spinelli (650/4.3/5)
How to Survive Middle School by Donna Gephart (660/3.9/6)
Short by Holly Goldberg Sloan (700/5.3/10)
Nerd Girls: The Rise of the Dorkasaurus by Alan Lawrence Sitomer
(700/4.3/7)

M

ystery

Half Moon Investigations by Eoin Colfer (620/4.2/9)
Hold Fast by Blue Balliett (780/5.2/9)
I So Don't Do Mysteries by Barrie Summy (600/3.8/8)
Ink and Ashes by Valynne E Maetani (HL740L/5.5/15)
The Art of Secrets by James Klise (770/5.6/8)
Skulduggery Pleasant by Derek Landy (760/4.9/10)
York: The Shadow Cipher by Ruby Laura(HL780/5.3/14)
Greenglass House by Kate Milford (800/5.4/15)
Ruby Redfort Look Into My Eyes by Lauren Child (800/5.6/11)
The Case of the Missing Marquess by Nancy Springer (1020/6.6/6)
Scat by Carl Hiaasen (810/5.3/14)

Science Fiction

Starters by Lissa Price (550/3.9/12)
Cosmic by Frank Cottrell Boyce (670/4.5/9)
City of Ember by Jeanne DuPrau (680/5.1/9)
Sylo by MacHale, D. J. (HL680/4.7/16)
Legend by Marie Lu (HL710/4.7/16)
MindWar by Andrew Klavan (720/5.4/11)
When you Reach Me by Rebecca Stead (750/4.5/6)
The Search for Wondla by Tony DiTerlizzi (760/5.2/11)
The Giver by Lois Lowry (760/5.7/7)
Ender's Game by Orson Scott Card (780/5.5/16)
The Roar by Emma Clayton (910/6.0/18)
Pathfinder by Orson Scott Card (920/6.3/29)
Boom by Mark Haddon (No Lexile/4.1/5)

Chick Lit

I Heart You, You Haunt Me by Lisa Schroeder (HL510/3.2/2)
Stargirl by Jerry Spinelli (590/4.2/6)
Close to Famous by Joan Bauer (540/3.6/6)
Windfall by Jennifer E. Smith (760/5.1/14)
Flirt Club by Cathleen Daly (860/5.5/9)
Better off Friends by Elizabeth Eulberg (590/4.3/9)
The Secret Language of Girls by Frances O'Roark Dowell
(870/5.2/5)
Angus, Thongs, and Full Frontal Snogging by Louise Rennison
(700/5.1/6)
Moxie and the Art of Rule Breaking by Erin Dionne (760/5.3/9)

A

dventure/Survival

Red Pyramid by Rick Riordan (650/4.5/18)
Stormbreaker by Anthony Horowitz (670/5.1/7)
Girl Stolen by April Henry (HL700/4.7/7)
Trapped by Michael Northop (750/5.3/9)
Life as We Knew It by Susan Beth Pfeffer
(770/4.7/14)
Peak by Roland Smith (780/5.0/9)
Trash by Andy Mulligan (850/5.1/8)
Hatchet by Gary Paulsen (1020/5.7/7)

F

antasy

Into the Wild by Sarah Beth Durst (530/4.0/8)
The Girl Who Drank the Moon by Kelly Barnhill (640/4.8/12)
Sea of Trolls by Nancy Farmer (670/4.7/16)
The False Prince by Jennifer A Neilsen (710/5.1/12)
Nightbird by Alice Hoffman (840/5.4/6)
Falling In by Frances O'Roark Dowell (850/5.3/6)
The Last Dragonslayer by Jasper Fforde (850/5.8/9)
Curse of the Thirteenth Fey by Jane Yolen (880/5.7/10)
City of Fire by Laurence Yep (900/6.1/12)
Wildwood by Colin Meloy (900/6.3/19)
The Ranger's Apprentice: The Ruins of Gorlan by John Flanagan
(920/6.6/12)
Un Lun Dun by China Mieville (No Lexile/4.3/16)
The Looking Glass Wars by Frank Beddor (1010/6.7/12)

S

ports

Boost by Kathryn Mackel (600/3.9/7)
Booked by Kwame Alexander (660/3.9/3)
All the Broken Pieces by Ann Burg (680/4.1/2)
Ghost by Jason Reynolds (730/4.6/6)
Pop by Gordon Korman (740/5.1/8)

Baseball Genius by Tim Green (750/4.6/8)
Taking Sides by Gary Soto (750/4.4/4)
The Girl Who Threw Butterflies by Mick Cochrane (750/5.1/7)
Football Champ by Tim Green (880/5.3/8)
Million Dollar Throw by Mike Lupica (960/5.4/8)
QB1 by Mike Lupica (990/5.4/10)

M

Ulticultural Characters

The Hate U Give by Angie Thomas (HL590/3.9/13)
The Dreamer by Pam Munoz Ryan (650/4.6/4)
The Great Greene Heist (660/4.6/7)
Crossing the Wire by Will Hobbs (670/4.3/8)
Piecing Me Together by Renee Watson (680/4.5/7)
Ask My Mood Ring How I Feel by Diana Lopez
(700/4.7/10)
A Long Walk to Water by Linda Sue Park (720/5.0/3)
A Time to Dance by Padma Venkatraman (720/4.8/5)
The Crossover by Kwame Alexander (750/4.3/2)
Brown Girl Dreaming CALL #B W898
by Jaqueline Woodson (990/5.3/5)

H

orror/Scary/Suspense

House of Dark Shadows by Robert Liparulo (580/4.2/7)
Closed for the Season by Mary Downing Hahn (670/4.4/6)
Took: A Ghost Story by Mary Downing Hahn (690/4.3/7)
Full Tilt by Neal Shusterman (700/5.0/7)
Killing Mr. Griffin by Lois Duncan (720/4.8/8)
Coraline by Neil Gaiman (740/5.1/5)
Doll Bones by Holly Black (840/5.4/7)
Spellbinder by Helen Stringer (840/5.5/13)
Long Lankin by Lindsay Barraclough (890/5.4/16)
The Haunting of Alai Isabel Cray by Chris Wooding (970/7.1/15)

Humor

Al Capone Does My Shirts by Gennifer Choldenko (600/3.5/7)
Middle School, The Worst Years of My Life (700/4.5/4)
Grendel's Guide to Love and War (HL700/Not Available)
Ungifted by Gordon Korman (710/5.2/8)
The Best Medicine by Christine Hamill (740/not avail)
Posted by David John Anderson (750/5.1/12)
Ms. Bixby's Last Day by John David Anderson (800/5.2/11)
The Wednesday Wars by Gary D Schmidt (990/5.2/12)
Notes from a Totally Lame Vampire by Tim Collins (1030/6.7/6)

Historical Fiction

Paper Cowboy by Kristin Levine (600/4.1/11)
Once by Morris Gleitzman (640/4.1/4)
Chains by Laurie Halse Anderson (780/5.2/11)
Loving VS Virginia by Lucinda Dyer (HL 720/4.4/3)
The Hired Girl by Laura Amy Schiltz (810/5.7/18)
Revolution by Deborah Wiles (840/5.2/16)
Private Peaceful by Michael Morporgo (860/5.2/7)
Shooting the Moon by Frances O'Roark Dowell (890/5.3/4)
The Boy in the Striped Pajamas by John Boyne (1080/5.8/7)

For a list of typical lexile reading levels by grade, please consult:
<https://www.lexile.com/about-lexile/grade-equivalent/grade-equivalent-chart/>

For a list of Accelerated Reader levels expected by Common Core Standards, please see page 4 of the following document:
<http://doc.renlearn.com/KMNet/R004572117GKC46B.pdf>

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<http://cbpl.lib.ia.us/teen>

Created 11/11 by AH
Updated 1/12, 5/14, 11/14, 6/16 by AH
Updated 11/17 by JR