

READING SPINE



In his book 'Reading Reconsidered', Doug Lemov points out there are five types of texts that children should have access to in order to successfully navigate reading with confidence. These are complex beyond a lexical level and demand more from the reader than other types of books.

You can read his blog article here: <https://teachlikeachampion.com/blog/on-text-complexity-and-reading-part-1-the-five-plagues-of-the-developing-reader/>

Archaic

The vocabulary, usage, syntax and context for cultural reference of texts over 50 or 100 years old are vastly different and typically more complex than texts written today. Students need to be exposed to and develop proficiency with antiquated forms of expression to be able to hope to read James Madison, Frederick Douglass and Edmund Spenser when they get to college.

Complexity of the Narrator

Books are sometimes narrated by an unreliable narrator- Scout, for example, who doesn't understand and misperceives some of what happened to her. Or the narrator in Edgar Allan Poe's "The Tell-Tale Heart" who is a madman out of touch with reality. Other books have multiple narrators such as Faulkner's *As I Lay Dying*. Others have non-human narrators such as the horse that tells the story in *Black Beauty*. Some books have multiple intertwined and apparently (for a time) unrelated plot lines. These are far harder to read than books with a single plot line and students need to experience these as well.

Resistant Texts

Texts written to deliberately resist easy meaning-making by readers. Perhaps half of the poems ever written fall into this category. You have to assemble meaning around nuances, hints, uncertainties and clues.

Non-Linear

In passages written exclusively for students—or more specifically for student assessments—time tends to unfold with consistency. A story is narrated in a given style with a given cadence and that cadence endures and remains consistent, but in the best books, books where every aspect of the narration is nuanced to create an exact image, time moves in fits and start. It doubles back. The only way to master such books is to have read them time and again and to be carefully introduced to them by a thoughtful teacher or parent.

Figurative/Symbolic

Texts which happen on an allegorical or symbolic level. Not reflected in Lexiles; critical forms of text complexity that students must experience.

Archaic TextNon-linear time sequencesComplexity of the NarratorFigurative/SymbolicResistant Texts

Puss In Boots
Ladybird Tales

The Princess and The Pea
Ladybird Tales

Pinnocchio
Ladybird Tales

Sleeping Beauty
Ladybird Tales

Rumpelstiltskin
Ladybird Tales

Jack and the Beanstalk
Ladybird Tales

The Three Little Pigs
Ladybird Tales

Little Red Riding Hood
Ladybird Tales

The Gingerbread Man
Ladybird Tales

Traditional Nursery Rhymes
Various Authors

Where's Spot?
Eric Hill

Dear Zoo
Rod Campbell

Six Dinner Sid
Inga Moore

Shhh!
Sally Grindley

Where the Wild Things Are
Maurice Sendak

The Story of the Little Mole
Werner Holzwarth

Star in the Jar
Sam Hey

The Lighthouse Keeper's Lunch
Ronda Armitage

Sulwe
Lupita Nyong'o

We're Going on a Bear Hunt
Michael Rosen

Can't you sleep Little Bear?
Quentin Blake

The Gruffalo
Julia Donaldson

There's a Tiger in the Garden
Lizzy Stewart

The Selfish Crocodile
Faustin Charles

Lila and the Secret of Rain
David Conway

Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?
Eric Carle

Hairy Maclary
Lynley Dodd

Elmer
David McKee

The Dot
Peter H Reynolds

The Rainbow Fish
Marcus Pfister

Not Now, Bernard!
David McKee

Lost and Found
Oliver Jeffers

Archaic TextNon-linear time sequencesComplexity of the NarratorFigurative/SymbolicResistant Texts**The Three Little Pigs**

Ladybird Tales

Little Red Riding Hood

Ladybird Tales

Three Billy Goats Gruff

Paul Galdone

The Ugly Duckling

Hans Christian Anderson

Goodnight Moon

Margaret Wise Brown

Aesop's Fables

Aesop

The More it Snows (poem)

A.A Milne

Mog

Jan Fearnley

The Stinky Cheese Man and Other Fairly Stupid Tales

Jon Scieszeka

The Dark

Lemony Snicket

The Proudest Blue

Ibihaj Muhammad

When the Rains Come

Tom Pow

Avocado Baby

John Burningham

The Tiger Who Came to Tea

Judith Kerr

The Jolly Postman

Janet and Allen Ahlberg

I Don't Like Books

Emma Perry

The Day The Crayon's Quit

Oliver Jeffers

The Wolf Story: What Really Happened to Little Red Riding Hood

Toby Forward

The Cat in the Hat

Dr Seuss

Dinosaurs and All That Rubbish

Maurice Sendak

Slug Needs A Hug

Jeanne Willis

The Very Hungry Caterpillar

Eric Carle

Where My Wellies Take Me

Michael Morpurgo

Apes to Zebras – AZ of Shape Poems

Roger Stevens

Mirror

Jeannie Baker

The Book With No Pictures

B.J Novak

The Colour Monster

Anna Llenas

Archaic TextNon-linear time sequencesComplexity of the NarratorFigurative/SymbolicResistant Texts

The Magic Faraway Tree
Enid Blyton

The Night Before Christmas (poem)
Clement Clarke Moore

The Owl and the Pussycat
Edward Lear

The Selfish Giant
Oscar Wilde

Winnie The Pooh
A.A.Milne

Paddington
Michael Bond

Three Brave Women
C.L.G Martin

My Name is not Refugee
Kate Milner

Voices in the Park
Anthony Brown

The Worst Witch
Jill Murphy

Where the Poppies Now Grow
Hilary Robinson

When Sadness Comes to Call
Eva Eland

Meerkat Mail
Emily Gravett

Fantastic Mr Fox
Roald Dahl

The Owl Who Was Afraid of the Dark
Jill Tomlinson

The Christmas Crayons
Oliver Jeffers

Ruby's Worry
Tom Percival

Wolves
Emily Gravett

Grandad's Island
Benji Davies

Owl Babies
Martin Waddell

The Way Back Home
Oliver Jeffers

Mirror
Jeannie Barker

Ning Nang Nong (poem)
Spike Milligan

The Red Tree
Shaun Tan

Archaic TextNon-linear time sequencesComplexity of the NarratorFigurative/SymbolicResistant Texts

How the Camel got his Hump

Rudyard Kipling

Alice's Adventures in Wonderland

Lewis Carroll

The Emperor's New Clothes

Hans Christian Anderson

There was a Young Lady Whose Nose and There was an Old Man With a Beard (poems)

Dominic Grows Sweetcorn

Mandy Ross

Farm Boy

Michael Morpurgo

The Legend of Captain Crow's Teeth

Eoin Culfer

The Abominables

Eva Ibbotson

Planet Omar – Accidental Trouble Magnet

Zainab Mian

The Bad Guys

Aaron Blabey

The Boy Who Grew Dragons

Andy Shepherd

The Tunnel

Anthony Browne

Revolt Rhymes

Roald Dahl

The Tin Forest

Helen Ward

Journey

Aaron Becker

Topsy Turvy World (poem)

William Brightly Rands

The Mysteries of Harris Burdick

Chris Van Allsberg

Archaic TextNon-linear time sequencesComplexity of the NarratorFigurative/SymbolicResistant Texts

Beauty and the Beast
Abdringed Version (48 pages)

The Fishermen and His Wife
Brothers Grimm

You are Old Father William (poem)
Lewis Carroll

The Velveteen Rabbit
Margery Williams

The Iron Man
Ted Hughes

The Ghanaian Goldilocks
Dr Tamara Pizzoli

Town is by the Sea
Joanne Schwartz

The Girl Who Stole an Elephant
Nizrana Farook

FArTHER
Grahame Baker-Smith

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory
Roald Dahl

Alex Sparrow and the Really Big Stink
Jennifer Killick

El Deafo
Cece Bell

Malala's Magic Pencil
Malala Yousefzai

Michael Rosen's A-Z Poetry
Michael Rosen

Cloud Busting
Malorie Blackman

Something Told The Wild Geese (poem)
Rachel Field

Archaic TextNon-linear time sequencesComplexity of the NarratorFigurative/SymbolicResistant Texts

War of the Worlds
H.G Wells

Robin Hood
Howard Pyle

Oliver Twist
Charles Dickens

Dreams (poem)
Langston Hughes

Cosmic
Frank Cottrell-Boyce

Holes
Louis Sachar

Coming to England
Floella Benjamin

Boy At The Back Of The Class
Onjali Q'Rauf

Clockwork
Phillip Pullman

The Pebble In My Pocket
Meredith Hooper

Wonder
R J Palacio

The Lost Thing
Shaun Tan

A Series Of Unfortunate Events
Lemony Snicket

The Lost Worlds (compendium)

Jabberwocky (poem)
Lewis Carroll

The Tyger (poem)
William Blake

Dreams (poem)
Langston Hughes

Amazing Muslims Who Changed The World
Burhana Islam

Archaic TextNon-linear time sequencesComplexity of the NarratorFigurative/SymbolicResistant Texts

Macbeth
William Shakespeare

A Christmas Carol
Charles Dickens

Tell-Tale Heart
Edgar Allen Poe

The Highwayman
Alfred Noyes

Room 13
Robert Swindells

The Girl Of Ink and Stars
Kiran Milwood Hargrave

Goodnight Mr Tom
Michelle Magorian

No Ballet Shoes in Syria
Catherine Bruton

Sky Song
Abi Elphinstone

Once
Moriz Gleitzman

Cogheart
Peter Bunzl

A Tale Dark and Grimm
Adam Gidwitz

The Arrival
Shaun Tan

Skellig
David Almond

Harry Potter
J.K Rowling

In Flanders Fields (poem)
John McRae

The Pobble Who Had No Toes (poem)
Edward Lear

Sky in the Pie (poem)
Roger McGough