

Exemplar Reader Certification

Exemplar Reader is a benchmark that encourages students to read books written at a level of complexity defined by the Common Core State Standards as the goal for their grade band. To “certify” as an Exemplar Reader, students read at least four books that appear on the exemplar lists in Appendix B of the Common Core standards—or texts of similar complexity that you identify—and accumulate a certain number of points by passing Renaissance Accelerated Reader® quizzes. Striving for Exemplar Reader motivates students to tackle complex text and helps you assess their ability to comprehend it.

How Exemplar Reader Certification Works

On a certification form for each grade band, we provide the titles of books on the exemplar lists for which we have quizzes, along with their ATOS® book level and point value. (To see the complete list of exemplar texts, go to www.corestandards.org/assets/Appendix_B.pdf. Certification forms are attached to this document.) ATOS book level is a quantitative measure of text complexity. It reports the readability level of the text, that is, the difficulty of the vocabulary and the text structure. Points are an indication of a book’s length. For example, an eight-point book is roughly twice as long as a four-point book.

To certify as an Exemplar Reader, students must meet the criteria for their grade band, which are noted on the next page and on the certification forms. Students choose books from the list provided on the form. You may add texts that you have decided are similar to the exemplar texts for your grade band. If you do add a text, you can use Renaissance Accelerated Reader Bookfinder™ at www.arbookfinder.com to see if an Accelerated Reader quiz is available and identify the book’s ATOS book level and point value. If you add a text that does not have a quiz, you will need to develop another way to assess comprehension— through an activity, for example, or a teacher-made quiz.

After reading a qualifying book, students take the Accelerated Reader quiz and write the quiz date, quiz score, and number of points earned on the certification form. You can double-check the data by viewing the software’s Student Performance Record Report. Once a student meets the criteria, we recommend that you celebrate his or her accomplishment with, for example, a certificate or a special label for the student’s reading folder.

RENAISSANCE®		RENAISSANCE Accelerated Reader 360®				
Exemplar Reader Certification, Grades 6-8						
Title	Author	ATOS Book Level	Points	Quiz Date	Quiz Score	Points Earned
This Land Was Made for You and Me: The Life and Songs of Woody Guthrie	Elizabeth Partridge	7.0	8			
Vincent Van Gogh: Portrait of an Artist	Jan Greenberg	7.6	5			
Informational Texts: Science, Math, and Technology						
Cathedral: The Story of Its Construction	David Macaulay	7.3	1			
Geeks: How Two Boys Rode the Internet out of Idaho	Jon Katz	8.3	10			
The Number Devil: A Mathematical Adventure	Hans Magnus Enzensberger	4.4	4			
Stories						
A Wrinkle in Time	Madeleine L'Engle	4.7	7			
Black Ships Before Troy: The Story of the Iliad	Rosemary Sutcliff	6.8	5			
Dragonwings	Laurence Yep	5.3	10			
Little Women	Louisa May Alcott	7.9	33			

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Important Things to Note

There are many texts on the exemplar lists that do not have Accelerated Reader quizzes—speeches, poems, journal articles, essays, and political documents. Because we cannot provide an assessment for these texts, we don't include them on the certification forms. We also do not include read-aloud texts. This is because the ultimate goal of the Common Core standards is for students to read complex texts independently.

The texts chosen by the authors of the Common Core as exemplars are challenging. For example, you'll see that the ATOS level of the texts for grade band 2–3 ranges from 2.3 to 5.6. This indicates the level of complexity the Common Core says students must engage with by the end of this grade band, and many students will need to work up to it.

Not all reading needs to be at this difficulty level. The Common Core clearly states that while students need to be able to read texts similar to the exemplar texts, they also need extensive practice with books that they select themselves and can comfortably read and enjoy—in other words, books within their ZPD. Make sure students get plenty of this critical reading practice.

Exemplar Reader is part of an optional reader certification system powered by Accelerated Reader. Beginning with emergent readers, students can certify at various levels by meeting specific requirements related to the quality, quantity, and difficulty of their reading practice. Each level represents a significant stage in a student's reading development. Except for two specialty levels, Exemplar Reader and Honors Reader, certification is tracked by the software. For more information, see the Resource document *Criteria for Accelerated Reader Reader Certification Levels*.

Grade Band	Exemplar Reader Certification Criteria
K–1	Read four books independently and pass the quizzes. Earn at least two points from a mix of informational texts and stories.
2–3	Read four books independently and pass the quizzes. Earn at least five points from a mix of informational texts and stories. At least one book must be worth one or more points.
4–5	Read four books independently and pass the quizzes. Earn at least seven points from a mix of informational texts and stories. At least one book must be worth three or more points.
6–8	Read four books independently and pass the quizzes. Earn at least 10 points from a mix of informational texts, stories, and drama. At least one book must be worth five or more points.
9–10	Read four books independently and pass the quizzes. Earn at least 15 points from a mix of informational texts, stories, and drama. At least one book must be worth seven or more points.
11–CCR	Read four books independently and pass the quizzes. Earn at least 20 points from a mix of informational texts, stories, and drama. At least one book must be worth eight or more points.

Student Name _____

Exemplar Reader Certification

Grades K–1

Read four books independently and pass the quizzes. Earn at least two points from a mix of informational texts and stories.

Title	Author	ATOS Book Level	Points	Quiz Date	Quiz Score	Points Earned
Informational Texts						
A Tree Is a Plant	Clyde Robert Bulla	2.3	0.5			
A Weed Is a Flower: The Life of George Washington Carver	Aliki	4.3	0.5			
Let's Find Out About Ice Cream	Mary Ebeltoft Reid	1.8	0.5			
My Five Senses	Aliki	2.0	0.5			
Starfish	Edith Thacher Hurd	2.3	0.5			
Stories						
Are You My Mother?	P.D. Eastman	1.6	0.5			
Frog and Toad Together	Arnold Lobel	2.9	0.5			

Exemplar Reader Certification, Grades K-1

Title	Author	ATOS Book Level	Points	Quiz Date	Quiz Score	Points Earned
Green Eggs and Ham	Dr. Seuss	1.5	0.5			
Hi! Fly Guy	Tedd Arnold	1.5	0.5			
Little Bear	Else Holmelund Minarik	2.4	0.5			
Owl at Home	Arnold Lobel	2.7	0.5			
Put Me in the Zoo	Robert Lopshire	1.4	0.5			
Teacher Additions						
Total Points Earned						

Student Name _____

Exemplar Reader Certification

Grades 2–3

Read four books independently and pass the quizzes. Earn at least five points from a mix of informational texts and stories. At least one book must be worth one or more points.

Title	Author	ATOS Book Level	Points	Quiz Date	Quiz Score	Points Earned
Informational Texts						
A Medieval Feast	Aliki	4.6	0.5			
Art Around the World	Heather Leonard	3.8	0.5			
Bat Loves the Night	Nicola Davies	3.4	0.5			
Bats: Creatures of the Night	Joyce Milton	2.9	0.5			
Boy, Were We Wrong About Dinosaurs!	Kathleen V. Kudlinski	5.0	0.5			
From Seed to Plant	Gail Gibbons	3.4	0.5			
Martin Luther King, Jr. and the March on Washington	Frances E. Ruffin	3.3	0.5			
Moonshot: The Flight of Apollo 11	Brian Floca	4.8	0.5			
So You Want to Be President?	Judith St. George	4.8	0.5			

Exemplar Reader Certification, Grades 2–3

Title	Author	ATOS Book Level	Points	Quiz Date	Quiz Score	Points Earned
Throw Your Tooth on the Roof: Tooth Traditions from Around the World	Selby B. Beeler	4.2	0.5			
Where Do Polar Bears Live?	Sarah L. Thomson	4.0	0.5			
Stories						
Amos & Boris	William Steig	4.7	0.5			
Cowgirl Kate and Cocoa	Erica Silverman	2.3	0.5			
Henry and Mudge: The First Book of Their Adventures	Cynthia Rylant	2.7	0.5			
My Father’s Dragon	Ruth Stiles Gannett	5.6	1			
Poppleton in Winter	Cynthia Rylant	2.5	0.5			
Sarah, Plain and Tall	Patricia MacLachlan	3.4	1			
The Fire Cat	Esther Averill	2.9	0.5			
The Lighthouse Family: The Storm	Cynthia Rylant	4.4	1			
The One-Eyed Giant	Mary Pope Osborne	4.8	1			

Exemplar Reader Certification, Grades 2–3

Title	Author	ATOS Book Level	Points	Quiz Date	Quiz Score	Points Earned
The Raft	Jim LaMarche	4.1	0.5			
The Stories Julian Tells	Ann Cameron	3.4	1			
The Treasure	Uri Shulevitz	3.0	0.5			
Tops and Bottoms	Janet Stevens	3.2	0.5			
Teacher Additions						
Total Points Earned						

Student Name _____

Exemplar Reader Certification

Grades 4–5

Read four books independently and pass the quizzes. Earn at least seven points from a mix of informational texts and stories. At least one book must be worth three or more points.

Title	Author	ATOS Book Level	Points	Quiz Date	Quiz Score	Points Earned
Informational Texts						
About Time: A First Look at Time and Clocks	Bruce Koscielniak	6.7	0.5			
Discovering Mars: The Amazing Story of the Red Planet	Melvin Berger	5.1	1			
England the Land	Erinn Banting	7.5	1			
Horses	Seymour Simon	5.2	0.5			
Hurricanes: Earth's Mightiest Storms	Patricia Lauber	6.0	1			
Let's Investigate Marvelously Meaningful Maps	Madelyn Wood	5.8	1			
My Librarian Is a Camel: How Books Are Brought to Children Around the World	Margriet Ruurs	6.3	1			
Quest for the Tree Kangaroo: An Expedition to the Cloud Forest of New Guinea	Sy Montgomery	5.3	2			
The Kid's Guide to Money: Earning It, Saving It, Spending It, Growing It, Sharing It	Steve Otfinoski	7.2	3			

Exemplar Reader Certification, Grades 4–5

Title	Author	ATOS Book Level	Points	Quiz Date	Quiz Score	Points Earned
Toys! Amazing Stories Behind Some Great Inventions	Don Wulffson	6.8	3			
Volcanoes	Seymour Simon	5.1	0.5			
We Are the Ship: The Story of Negro League Baseball	Kadir Nelson	5.9	3			
Stories						
Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland	Lewis Carroll	7.4	5			
Bud, Not Buddy	Christopher Paul Curtis	5.0	8			
M.C. Higgins, the Great	Virginia Hamilton	4.4	10			
The Birchbark House	Louise Erdrich	6.1	7			
The Black Stallion	Walter Farley	5.2	7			
The Little Prince	Antoine de Saint-Exupery	5.0	2			
The Secret Garden	Frances Hodgson Burnett	6.3	13			
Tuck Everlasting	Natalie Babbitt	5.0	4			

Exemplar Reader Certification, Grades 4–5

Title	Author	ATOS Book Level	Points	Quiz Date	Quiz Score	Points Earned
Where the Mountain Meets the Moon	Grace Lin	5.5	7			
Teacher Additions						
Total Points Earned						

Student Name _____

Exemplar Reader Certification

Grades 6–8

Read four books independently and pass the quizzes. Earn at least 10 points from a mix of informational texts, stories, and drama. At least one book must be worth five or more points.

Title	Author	ATOS Book Level	Points	Quiz Date	Quiz Score	Points Earned
Informational Texts: English/Language Arts						
Harriet Tubman: Conductor on the Underground Railroad	Ann Petry	6.6	9			
Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass an American Slave, Written by Himself	Frederick Douglass	7.9	7			
Travels with Charley: In Search of America	John Steinbeck	6.7	13			
Informational Texts: History/Social Studies						
A Night to Remember	Walter Lord	7.0	8			
A Short Walk Around the Pyramids and Through the World of Art	Philip Issacson	6.7	1			
Freedom Walkers: The Story of the Montgomery Bus Boycott	Russell Freedman	7.7	3			
The Great Fire	Jim Murphy	7.6	4			

Exemplar Reader Certification, Grades 6-8

Title	Author	ATOS Book Level	Points	Quiz Date	Quiz Score	Points Earned
This Land Was Made for You and Me: The Life and Songs of Woody Guthrie	Elizabeth Partridge	7.0	8			
Vincent Van Gogh: Portrait of an Artist	Jan Greenberg	7.6	5			
Informational Texts: Science, Math, and Technology						
Cathedral: The Story of Its Construction	David Macaulay	7.3	1			
Geeks: How Two Boys Rode the Internet out of Idaho	Jon Katz	8.3	10			
The Number Devil: A Mathematical Adventure	Hans Magnus Enzensberger	4.4	4			
Stories						
A Wrinkle in Time	Madeleine L'Engle	4.7	7			
Black Ships Before Troy: The Story of the Iliad	Rosemary Sutcliff	6.8	5			
Dragonwings	Laurence Yep	5.3	10			
Little Women	Louisa May Alcott	7.9	33			

Exemplar Reader Certification, Grades 6-8

Title	Author	ATOS Book Level	Points	Quiz Date	Quiz Score	Points Earned
Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry	Mildred D. Taylor	5.7	10			
The Adventures of Tom Sawyer	Mark Twain	8.1	12			
The Dark Is Rising	Susan Cooper	6.2	13			
The People Could Fly: American Black Folktales	Virginia Hamilton	4.3	4			
The Tale of the Mandarin Ducks	Katherine Paterson	5.6	0.5			
Drama						
The Diary of Anne Frank: A Play	Frances Goodrich	3.1	4			
Teacher Additions						

Exemplar Reader Certification, Grades 6-8

Title	Author	ATOS Book Level	Points	Quiz Date	Quiz Score	Points Earned
Total Points Earned						

Student Name _____

Exemplar Reader Certification

Grades 9–10

Read four books independently and pass the quizzes. Earn at least 15 points from a mix of informational texts, stories, and drama. At least one book must be worth seven or more points.

Title	Author	ATOS Book Level	Points	Quiz Date	Quiz Score	Points Earned
Informational Texts: English/Language Arts						
Gettysburg Address	Abraham Lincoln	4.3	0.5			
I Have a Dream: Address Delivered at the March on Washington, D.C., for Civil Rights on August 28, 1963	Martin Luther King, Jr.	7.2	0.5			
I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings	Maya Angelou	6.7	13			
Informational Texts: History/Social Studies						
Before Columbus: The Americas of 1491	Charles C. Mann	8.1	5			
Black, Blue, and Gray: African Americans in the Civil War	Jim Haskins	10.0	3			
Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee	Dee Brown	7.9	27			
Cod: A Biography of a Fish That Changed the World	Mark Kurlansky	8.8	10			

Exemplar Reader Certification, Grades 9-10

Title	Author	ATOS Book Level	Points	Quiz Date	Quiz Score	Points Earned
The Longitude Prize	Joan Dash	8.6	7			
Informational Texts: Science, Math, and Technology						
Biography of an Atom	Jacob Bronowski	6.9	0.5			
Life by the Numbers	Keith Devlin	9.7	10			
The Hot Zone: A Terrifying True Story	Richard Preston	7.3	16			
The Race to Save the Lord God Bird	Philip Hoose	7.9	9			
Stories						
Fahrenheit 451	Ray Bradbury	5.2	7			
Fathers and Sons	Ivan Turgenev	6.9	12			
In the Time of the Butterflies	Julia Alvarez	5.8	18			
The Book Thief	Markus Zusak	5.1	18			

Exemplar Reader Certification, Grades 9-10

Title	Author	ATOS Book Level	Points	Quiz Date	Quiz Score	Points Earned
The Gift of the Magi	O. Henry	6.2	0.5			
The Grapes of Wrath	John Steinbeck	4.9	25			
The Joy Luck Club	Amy Tan	5.7	14			
The Killer Angels	Michael Shaara	4.7	15			
The Metamorphosis	Franz Kafka	10.5	12			
The Odyssey	Homer	10.3	24			
Things Fall Apart	Chinua Achebe	6.2	8			
To Kill a Mockingbird	Harper Lee	5.6	15			
Drama						
A Doll's House	Henrik Ibsen	5.9	4			
Master Harold ... and the Boys	Athol Fugard	3.9	2			
Oedipus Rex	Sophocles	5.6	2			

Exemplar Reader Certification, Grades 9-10

Title	Author	ATOS Book Level	Points	Quiz Date	Quiz Score	Points Earned
The Glass Menagerie	Tennessee Williams	5.3	3			
The Tragedy of Macbeth	William Shakespeare	10.9	4			
Teacher Additions						
Total Points Earned						

Student Name _____

Exemplar Reader Certification

Grades 11 – College and Career Ready

Read four books independently and pass the quizzes. Earn at least 20 points from a mix of informational texts, stories, and drama. At least one book must be worth eight or more points.

Title	Author	ATOS Book Level	Points	Quiz Date	Quiz Score	Points Earned
Informational Texts: English/Language Arts						
Black Boy	Richard Wright	7.4	22			
Walden	Henry David Thoreau	8.7	21			
Informational Texts: History/Social Studies						
1776	David McCullough	9.1	20			
Democracy in America	Alexis de Tocqueville	13.4	52			
The Tipping Point: How Little Things Can Make a Big Difference	Malcolm Gladwell	9.1	15			
What They Fought For 1861–1865	James M. McPherson	9.7	4			

Exemplar Reader Certification, Grades 11–CCR

Title	Author	ATOS Book Level	Points	Quiz Date	Quiz Score	Points Earned
Stories						
A Farewell to Arms	Ernest Hemingway	6.0	13			
A White Heron	Sarah Orne Jewett	7.2	1			
As I Lay Dying	William Faulkner	5.4	9			
Billy Budd, Sailor	Herman Melville	10.6	6			
Crime and Punishment	Fyodor Dostoevsky	8.7	40			
Don Quixote	Miguel de Cervantes	13.2	91			
Dreaming in Cuban	Cristina Garcia	6.5	11			
Jane Eyre	Charlotte Bronte	7.9	33			
Pride and Prejudice	Jane Austen	12.0	27			
The Adventures of Augie March	Saul Bellow	6.8	42			
The Bluest Eye	Toni Morrison	5.2	8			
The Canterbury Tales	Geoffrey Chaucer	8.1	26			

Exemplar Reader Certification, Grades 11–CCR

Title	Author	ATOS Book Level	Points	Quiz Date	Quiz Score	Points Earned
The Cask of Amontillado	Edgar Allen Poe	7.3	0.5			
The Great Gatsby	F. Scott Fitzgerald	7.3	8			
The Namesake	Jhumpa Lahiri	7.2	18			
The Scarlet Letter	Nathaniel Hawthorne	11.7	14			
Their Eyes Were Watching God	Zora Neale Hurston	5.6	10			
Drama						
A Raisin in the Sun	Lorraine Hansberry	5.5	5			
Death and the King’s Horseman: A Play	Wole Soyinka	4.8	3			
Death of a Salesman	Arthur Miller	6.2	5			
Our Town: A Play in Three Acts	Thornton Wilder	3.9	3			
The Importance of Being Ernest	Oscar Wilde	4.5	3			
The Tragedy of Hamlet	William Shakespeare	10.5	7			

Exemplar Reader Certification, Grades 11-CCR

Title	Author	ATOS Book Level	Points	Quiz Date	Quiz Score	Points Earned
Teacher Additions						
Total Points Earned						