

Coming of Age Novels

- Little Women by Louisa May Alcott Lexile 1300
The story of four sisters growing up during the Civil War.
- The Remarkable Journey of Prince Jen Lexile 790
Carrying six unusual gifts, Young Lord Prince Jen embarks on a perilous journey to the marvelous realm of T'en-Kuo.
- City of the Beasts by Isabel Allende Lexile 1030
When fifteen-year-old Alexander Cold accompanies his individualistic grandmother on an expedition to find a humanoid Beast in the Amazon, he experiences ancient wonders and a supernatural world as he tries to avert disaster for the Indians.
- Speak by Laurie Halse Anderson Lexile 680
A traumatic event near the end of the summer has a devastating effect on Melinda's freshman year in high school.
- Nothing but the Truth by Avi Lexile NP
A ninth-grader's suspension for singing "The Star-Spangled Banner" during homeroom becomes a national news story.
- The Wizard of Oz by L. Frank Baum Lexile 770
After a cyclone transports her to the land of Oz, Dorothy and her dog Toto are taken to Emerald City to look for a wizard who can help her return home to Kansas.
- The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants by Ann Brashares Lexile 600
Four best girlfriends spend the biggest summer of their lives enchanted by magical pair of pants.
- Jane Eyre by Charlotte Bronte Lexile 890
In early nineteenth-century England, an orphaned young woman accepts employment as a governess at Thornfield Hall, a country estate owned by the mysteriously remote Mr. Rochester.
- Cold Sassy Tree by Oliver Burns Lexile 930
Grandpa Blakeslee marries a young milliner just three weeks after Granny Blakeslee has gone to her reward. Young Will is boggled by this act but becomes the newlyweds' conspirator and confidant; meanwhile he does some growing up on his own.
- A Hero Ain't Nothing But a Sandwich by Alice Childress
Set in the 1970s Harlem, this moving novel shows the life of a 13-year-old heroin addict through several characters eyes.

Year of Impossible Goodbyes by Sook Nyul Choi Lexile 840

A young Korean girl survives the oppressive Japanese and Soviet occupation of North Korea during the 1940s, to later escape to freedom in South Korea.

Al Capone Does My Shirts by Gennifer Choldenko Lexile 600

A twelve-year-old boy named Moose moves to Alcatraz Island in 1935 when guards' families were housed there, and has to contend with his extraordinary new environment in addition to life with his autistic sister.

The House on Mango Street by Sandra Cisneros Lexile 870

Meet Esperanza Cordero, a teen growing up amidst the harsh beauty and poverty in the Latino section of Chicago.

The Chocolate War by Robert Cormier Lexile 820

A high school freshman discovers the devastating consequences of refusing to join in the school's annual fund raising drive and arousing the wrath of the school bullies.

The Red Badge of Courage by Stephen Crane Lexile 900

Presents Stephen Crane's classic novel about Henry Flemming, a young Civil War Union soldier who experiences his first battle and then has to come to terms with his own fears and feelings of cowardice.

Staying Fat for Sarah Byrnes by Chris Crutcher Lexile 920

The daily class discussions about the nature of man, the existence of God, abortion, organized religion, suicide and other contemporary issues serve as a backdrop for a high-school senior's attempt to answer a friend's dramatic cry for help.

Bucking the Sarge by Christopher Paul Curtis Lexile 1000

Deeply involved in his cold and manipulative mother's shady business dealings in Flint, Michigan, fourteen-year-old Luther keeps a sense of humor while running the Happy Neighbor Group Home For Men, all the while dreaming of going to college and becoming a philosopher.

The Loud Silence of Francine Green by Karen Cushman Lexile 750

In 1949, thirteen-year-old Francine goes to Catholic school in Los Angeles where she becomes best friends with a girl who questions authority and is frequently punished by the nuns, causing Francine to question her own values.

Say Goodnight, Gracie by Julie Reece Deaver Lexile 580

When a car accident kills her best friend Jimmy, with whom she has shared everything from childhood escapades to breaking into the professional theater scene in Chicago, seventeen-year-old Morgan must find her own way of coping with his death.

Great Expectations by Charles Dickens Lexile 1230
The story of Pip, an orphan in Victorian England who is informed one day that he has "great expectations" and is to be educated and reared as a gentleman.

The House of the Scorpion by Nancy Farmer Lexile 660
In a future where humans despise clones, Matt enjoys special status as the young clone of El Patron, the 142-year-old leader of a corrupt drug empire nestled between Mexico and the United States.

April Morning by Howard Fast Lexile 1050
Adam Cooper, 15, observes the events in Lexington and Concord on April 19, 1775.

Lord of the Flies by William Gerald Golding Lexile 770
What happens when a dozen boys are stranded on a desert island?

Bronx Masquerade by Nikki Grimes Lexile 670
While studying the Harlem Renaissance, students at a Bronx high school read aloud poems they've written, revealing their innermost thoughts and fears to their formerly clueless classmates.

Out of the Dust by Karen Hesse Lexile NP
In a series of poems, fourteen-year-old Billie Jo relates the hardships of living on her family's wheat farm in Oklahoma during the dust bowl years of the Depression.

The Outsiders by S. E. Hinton Lexile 750
A classic story of class struggle, loyalty, and honor.

The Maze by Will Hobbs Lexile 720
Rick, a fourteen-year-old foster child, escapes from a juvenile detention facility near Las Vegas and travels to Canyonlands National Park in Utah where he meets a bird biologist working on a project to reintroduce condors to the wild.

Penny from Heaven by Jennifer L. Holm Lexile 730
As she turns twelve during the summer of 1953, Penny gains new insights into herself and her family while also learning a secret about her father's death.

My Louisiana Sky by Kimberly Willis Holt Lexile 770
Growing up in Saitter, Louisiana, in the 1950's, twelve-year-old Tiger Ann struggles with her feelings about her stern, but loving grandmother, her mentally slow parents, and her good friend and neighbor, Jesse.

Across Five Aprils by Irene Hunt Lexile 1100
Young Jethro Creighton grows from a boy to a man when he is left to take care of the family farm in Illinois during the difficult years of the Civil War.

The Color of My Words by Lynn Joseph Lexile 840

When life gets difficult for Ana Rosa, a twelve-year-old would-be writer living in a small village in the Dominican Republic, she can depend on her older brother to make her feel better—until the life-changing events on her thirteenth birthday.

The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate by Jacqueline Kelly Lexile 830

In central Texas in 1899, eleven-year-old Callie Vee Tate is instructed to be a lady by her mother, learns about love from the older three of her six brothers, and studies the natural world with her grandfather, the latter of which leads to an important discovery.

The Green Glass Sea by Ellen Klages Lexile 790

In 1943, eleven-year-old Dewey Kerrigan lives with her scientist father in Los Alamos, New Mexico, as he works on a top secret government program, and befriends an aspiring artist who is a misfit just like her.

A Separate Peace by John Knowles Lexile 1110

Gene Forrester looks back fifteen years to a World War II year in which he and his best friend were roommates in a New Hampshire boarding school.

Camilla by Madeleine L'Engle

Fifteen-year-old Camilla gains new maturity through her relationship with her best friend's brother and the growing realization that her parents are fallible individuals.

A Ring of Endless Light by Madeleine L'Engle Lexile 810

During the summer her grandfather is dying of leukemia and death seems all around, 15-year-old Vicky finds comfort with the pod of dolphins with which she has been doing research.

To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee Lexile 870

Witness the trial of a black man through the eyes of two children in the 1930s South.

Christy by Catherine Marshall Lexile 930

In 1912, nineteen-year-old Christy Huddleston leaves her comfortable home to teach in a one-room schoolhouse in an isolated area of the Great Smokies.

The Member of the Wedding by Carson McCullers Lexile 900

Frankie Addams, a motherless twelve-year-old raised by her father and the family's African-American cook, struggles with conflicting feelings about her brother's upcoming wedding.

Touching Spirit Bear by Ben Mikaelson Lexile 670

After his anger erupts into violence, fifteen year-old Cole, in order to avoid going to prison, agrees to participate in a sentencing alternative based on the Native

American Circle Justice, and he is sent to a remote Alaskan Island where an encounter with a huge Spirit Bear changes his life.

The Legend of Buddy Bush by Shelia P. Moses Lexile 760

In 1947, twelve-year-old Pattie Mae is sustained by her dreams of escaping Rich Square, North Carolina, and moving to Harlem when her Uncle Buddy is arrested for attempted rape of a white woman and her grandfather is diagnosed with a terminal brain tumor.

Princess Ben by Catherine Gilbert Murdock Lexile 1090

A girl is transformed, through instruction in life at court, determination, and magic, from sullen, pudgy, graceless Ben into Crown Princess Benevolence, a fit ruler of the kingdom of Montagne as it faces war with neighboring Drachensbett.

Monster by Walter Dean Myers Lexile 670

While on trial as an accomplice to a murder, sixteen-year-old Steve Harmon records his experiences in prison and in the courtroom in the form of a film script as he tries to come to terms with the course his life has taken.

The Agony of Alice by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor Lexile 910

Eleven-year-old, motherless Alice decides she needs a gorgeous role model who does everything right; and when placed in homely Mrs. Plotkin's class she is greatly disappointed until she discovers it's what people are inside that counts.

Hatchet by Gary Paulsen Lexile 1020

After a plane crash, thirteen-year-old Brian spends fifty-four days in the wilderness, learning to survive with only the aid of a hatchet given him by his mother, and learning also to survive his parents' divorce.

The Haymeadow by Gary Paulsen Lexile 1010

Fourteen-year-old John comes of age and gains self-reliance during the summer he spends up in the Wyoming mountains tending his father's herd of sheep.

On the Wings of Heroes by Richard Peck Lexile 730

A boy in Illinois remembers the homefront years of World War II, especially his two heroes—his brother in the Air Force and his father, who fought in the previous war.

Monsoon Summer by Mitali Perkins Lexile 750

Jazz must spend the summer away from him when her family goes to India during that country's rainy season to help set up a clinic.

The Not-So-Star-Spangled Life of Sunita Sen by Mitali Perkins Lexile 780

The arrival of her grandparents from India causes thirteen-year-old Sunita to resent her Indian heritage and to be embarrassed by the differences she feels between herself and her friends in California.

Define "Normal" by Julie Anne Peters Lexile 350
When she agrees to meet with Jasmine as a peer counselor at their middle school, Antonia never dreams that this girl with the black lipstick and pierced eyebrow will end up helping her deal with the serious problems she faces at home and become a good friend.

Lord of the Deep by Graham Salisbury Lexile 540
Working for his stepfather on a charter fishing boat in Hawaii teaches thirteen-year-old Mikey about fishing, and about taking risks, making sacrifices, and facing some of life's difficult choices.

Okay for Now by Gary Schmidt Lexile 850
While Doug struggles to be more than the thug that his teachers and the police think him to be, he finds an unlikely ally in Lil Spicer, as they explore Audubon's art.

The Wednesday Wars by Gary D. Schmidt Lexile 990
During the 1967 school year, on Wednesday afternoons when all his classmates go to either Catechism or Hebrew school, seventh-grader Holling Hoodhood stays in Mrs. Baker's classroom where they read the plays of William Shakespeare and Holling learns much of value about the world he lives in.

The Schwa was Here by Neal Shusterman Lexile 790
A Brooklyn eighth-grader nicknamed Antsy befriends the Schwa, an "invisible-ish" boy who is tired of blending into his surroundings and going unnoticed by nearly everyone.

A Tree Grows in Brooklyn by Betty Smith Lexile 810
The story of a girl struggling to grow amidst poverty.

Peak by Roland Smith Lexile 780
A fourteen-year-old boy attempts to be the youngest person to reach the top of Mount Everest.

The Land by Mildred D. Taylor Lexile 760
After the Civil War, Paul, the son of a white father and a black mother, finds himself caught between the two worlds of colored folks and white folks as he pursues his dream of owning land of his own.

The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn by Mark Twain Lexile 990
The account of a boy and an escaped slave's journey down the Mississippi River.

Homecoming by Cynthia Voigt Lexile 630
Abandoned by their father and then their mother, four children begin a search for a home and an identity.

So B It by Sarah Weeks Lexile 860
After spending her life with her mentally retarded mother and agoraphobic neighbor, twelve-year-old Heidi sets out from Reno, Nevada, to New York to find out who she is.

Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm by Kate Douglas Smith Wiggin Lexile 1190
Talkative, ten-year-old Rebecca goes to live with her spinster aunts, one harsh and demanding, one soft and sentimental, with whom she spends seven difficult but rewarding years growing up.

Black Storm Comin' by Diane L. Wilson Lexile 860
Twelve-year-old Colton, son of a black mother and a white father, takes a job with the Pony Express in 1860 after his father abandons the family on their California-bound wagon train, and risks his life to deliver an important letter that may affect the growing conflict between the North and South.

Make Lemonade by Virginia Wolff Lexile 890
In order to earn money for college, fourteen-year-old LaVaughn babysits for a teenage mother.

After Tupac and D Foster by Jacqueline Woodson Lexile 750
In the New York City borough of Queens in 1996, three girls bond over their shared love of Tupac Shakur's music, as together they try to make sense of the unpredictable world in which they live.

The Pigman by Paul Zindel Lexile 950
Two high school sophomores from unhappy homes form a close friendship with a lonely old man who has a terrible secret.