

Common Core State Standards Grades 6–8 Text Exemplars

The following text samples primarily serve to exemplify the level of complexity and quality that the Standards require all students in a given grade band to engage with. Additionally, they are suggestive of the breadth of texts that students should encounter in the text types required by the Standards. The choices should serve as useful guideposts in helping educators select texts of similar complexity, quality, and range for their own classrooms. They expressly do not represent a partial or complete reading list.

See http://www.corestandards.org/assets/Appendix_B.pdf for more information.

Stories

Alcott, Louisa May. [*Little Women*](#)

Twain, Mark. [*The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*](#)

L'Engle, Madeleine. [*A Wrinkle in Time*](#)

Yep, Laurence. [*Dragonwings*](#)

Taylor, Mildred D. [*Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry*](#)

Hamilton, Virginia. [*The People Could Fly*](#)

Paterson, Katherine. [*The Tale of the Mandarin Ducks*](#)

Sutcliff, Rosemary. [*Black Ships Before Troy: The Story of the Iliad*](#)

Informational Texts: English Language Arts

Douglass, Frederick. [*Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass an American Slave, Written by Himself*](#)

Informational Texts: History/Social Studies

Lord, Walter. [*A Night to Remember*](#)

Murphy, Jim. [*The Great Fire*](#)

Greenberg, Jan, and Sandra Jordan. [*Vincent Van Gogh: Portrait of an Artist*](#)

Monk, Linda R. [*Words We Live By: Your Annotated Guide to the Constitution*](#)

Freedman, Russell. [*Freedom Walkers: The Story of the Montgomery Bus Boycott*](#)

Informational Texts: Science, Mathematics, and Technical Subjects

Macaulay, David. [*Cathedral: The Story of Its Construction*](#)

Mackay, Donald. [*The Building of Manhattan*](#)

Enzensberger, Hans Magnus. [*The Number Devil: A Mathematical Adventure*](#)

Katz, John. [*Geeks: How Two Lost Boys Rode the Internet out of Idaho*](#)