Common Core State Standards
Trade Bookroom

COMMON CORE

Bridging the rigor of the Common Core Reading Standards

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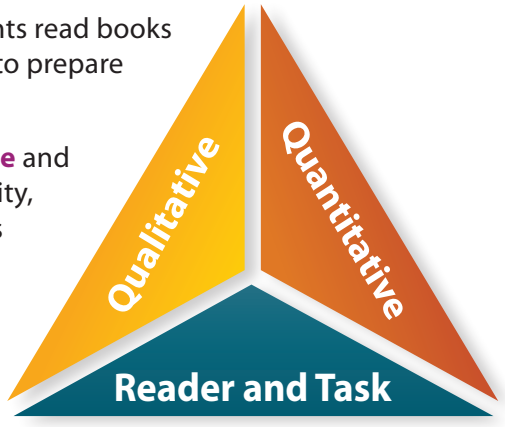
Common Core State Standards Trade Bookroom

Helping Teachers Select Texts of Appropriate Complexity

The Common Core State Standards for Reading recommend that students read books of sufficient complexity as they progress through grade levels, in order to prepare them for the demands of college and career.

The Standards recommend a three-tiered process, in which **quantitative** and **qualitative** measures are used to evaluate books for their text complexity, along with teacher judgment in matching readers to learning tasks. This three-tiered approach helps ensure that students are working with the appropriate level of texts that are accessible, as well as with books that are complex enough to expand their growth.



The 4 Qualitative Factors

The **quantitative** measure used for most of the titles in this Common Core Trade Bookroom, is the **Lexile™ measurement system**. As in all quantitative measures, a few technical and/or novel words can skew a book's rating. Because of this, the authors of the standards recommend that teachers also employ a **qualitative** measure, in which books are rated according to nuanced factors that impact their complexity, as outlined in Appendix A of the Standards*. These four factors are:

Levels of Meaning (literary) **or Author's Purpose** (informational)**:**

Texts with single levels of meaning are less complex than those with multiple layers of meaning. Texts in which the author's purpose is explicitly stated are less complex than those where it is not transparent.

Complexity of Text Structure:

Examples of factors that contribute to structural complexity include features such as a clear plot structure in literary texts, as opposed to one with many twists and time sequence changes. For informational texts, the degree of complexity of supporting graphics, and how central they are to gaining meaning from the text is one example. The more complex the graphic, and the more the reader depends on it to understand the text, the greater the text's complexity.

Language Conventionality and Clarity:

One example that impacts complexity is the extent to which a text contains clear, conversational, or literal language as opposed to figurative, ambiguous, or archaic language.

Knowledge Demands on the Reader:

As an example, texts that don't assume any background, cultural, or content knowledge of the reader will be less complex than those that do.

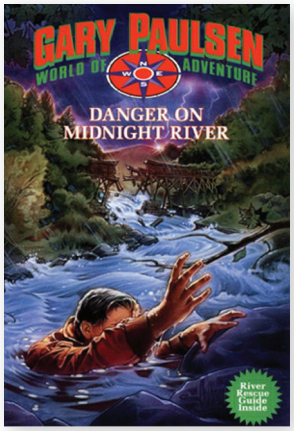
*Common Core State Standards Initiative.(n.d.). Common Core State Standards. Available: http://www.corestandards.org/the-standards

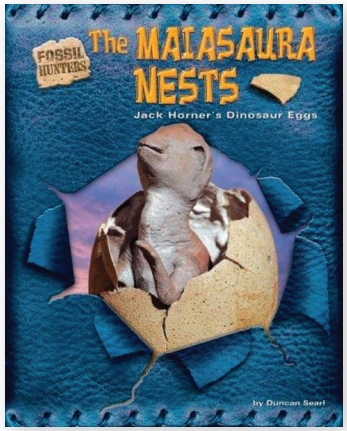
Using the Title Chart and Text Complexity Graphics

To make the process of evaluating books easier, the Common Core Trade Bookroom provides a convenient list of authentic fiction and nonfiction titles that have already been evaluated by an experienced educator according to the four **qualitative** factors: **Meaning/Purpose, Structure, Language, and Knowledge.**

The charts on the following pages present a collection of our high quality trade fiction and nonfiction books, organized by grade level and alignment to the Common Core Standards for Reading. These are the books written by renowned authors that teachers love to teach and students love to read. Each title is accompanied by a rating of its complexity, according to the four **qualitative** factors listed above. For each factor, an arrow points to the right, in the direction of greater complexity. The white circle on the arrow indicates the degree of complexity for each specific factor. In this way, educators can select titles that provide low, mid-low, mid-high, or high levels of complexity, depending on the reader's needs, abilities, and the learning task at hand.

In the example below, **Maiasaura Nests**, the author's purpose is considered mid-low, as is text structure. However, language conventionality and knowledge demands are rated in the mid-high range. As a result, teachers will want to provide additional instructional support for these two features.





TEXT COMPLEXITY RUBRIC

Overall Text Complexity		Danger on Midnight River LITERARY TEXT (FICTION)	Malasaura Nests INFORMATIONAL TEXT (NONFICTION)
Quantitative Measures	Fiction or Nonfiction	F	NF
	Fountas & Pinnell Level	R	Q
	Lexile	620	780
Qualitative Measures	Author's Purpose (Nonfiction) or Levels of Meaning (Fiction)		
	Text Structure		
	Language Conventionality and Clarity		
	Knowledge Demands		

Grade 3 Common Core Trade Bookroom

Deliver text complexity and academic rigor with leveled, authentic fiction and nonfiction titles.

The following titles are available in the Grade 3 Common Core Trade Bookroom. Lexile Levels not available for all titles.

Title	Author	F/NF	F&P	Lexile	Text Complexity	Common Core Standards
Baby Whales Drink Milk	Barbara Juster Esbensen	NF	M	650	Author's Purpose Structure Language Knowledge	RI.3.1; RI. 3.2; RI.3.3; RI.3.4; RI.3.5; RI.3.6; RI.3.7; RI.3.8
The Wonder of Wolves	Patricia Lantier-Sampon	NF	M	720	Author's Purpose Structure Language Knowledge	R.I.3.1; R.I. 3.2; R.I.3.3; R.I.3.4; R.I.3.5; R.I.3.6; R.I.3.7; R.I.3.8
Weird and Wacky Plants	Katherine Kenah	NF	N	690	Author's Purpose Structure Language Knowledge	R.I.3.1; R.I. 3.2; R.I.3.3; R.I.3.4; R.I.3.5; R.I.3.6; R.I.3.7; R.I.3.8
Allie's Basketball Dream	Barbara E. Barber	F	N	590	Levels of Meaning Structure Language Knowledge	RL.3.1; RL.3.2; RL.3.3; RL.3.4; RL.3.5; RL.3.6; RL.3.7

Grade 3 Common Core Trade Bookroom (continued)

Title	Author	F/NF	F&P	Lexile	Text Complexity	Common Core Standards
The Outside Dog	Charlotte Pomerantz	F	N	450	Levels of Meaning Structure Language Knowledge	RL.3.1; RL.3.2; RL.3.3; RL.3.4; RL.3.5; RL.3.6; RL.3.7
The Boy of the Three-Year Nap	Dianne Snyder	F	N	740	Levels of Meaning Structure Language Knowledge	RL.3.1; RL.3.2; RL.3.3; RL.3.4; RL.3.5; RL.3.6; RL.3.7
How Do Birds Find Their Way?	Roma Gans	NF	N	770	Author's Purpose Structure Language Knowledge	RI.3.1; RI. 3.2; RI.3.3; RI.3.4; RI.3.5; RI.3.6; RI.3.7; RI.3.8
Mountain Gorillas in Danger	Rita Richie	NF	N	830	Author's Purpose Structure Language Knowledge	RI.3.1; RI. 3.2; RI.3.3; RI.3.4; RI.3.5; RI.3.6; RI.3.7; RI.3.8
Brave as a Mountain Lion	Ann Herbert Scott	F	N	590	Levels of Meaning Structure Language Knowledge	RL.3.1; RL.3.2; RL.3.3; RL.3.4; RL.3.5; RL.3.6; RL.3.7

Grade 3 Common Core Trade Bookroom (continued)

Title	Author	F/NF	F&P	Lexile	Text Complexity	Common Core Standards
Detective Donut	Bruce Whatley	F	N	490	Levels of Meaning Structure Language Knowledge	RL.3.1; RL.3.2; RL.3.3; RL.3.4;RL.3.5; RL.3.6; RL.3.7
Ice Mummy: The Discovery of a 5,000-Year-Old Man	Mark Dubowski and Cathy East Dubowski	F	N		Levels of Meaning Structure Language Knowledge	RL.3.1; RL.3.2; RL.3.3; RL.3.4;RL.3.5; RL.3.6; RL.3.7
Sammy Sosa	Terri Doughtery	NF	N		Author's Purpose Structure Language Knowledge	RI.3.1; RI. 3.2; RI.3.3; RI.3.4; RI.3.5; RI.3.6; RI.3.7; RI.3.8
Giant Snakes	Seymour Simon	NF	O	960	Author's Purpose Structure Language Knowledge	RI.3.1; RI. 3.2; RI.3.3; RI.3.4; RI.3.5; RI.3.6; RI.3.7; RI.3.8
Where Does the Garbage Go?	Paul Showers	NF	O	730	Author's Purpose Structure Language Knowledge	RI.3.1; RI. 3.2; RI.3.3; RI.3.4; RI.3.5; RI.3.6; RI.3.7; RI.3.8

Grade 3 Common Core Trade Bookroom (continued)

Title	Author	F/NF	F&P	Lexile	Text Complexity	Common Core Standards
Sam and the Lucky Money	Karen Chinn	F	O	660	Levels of Meaning Structure Language Knowledge	RL.3.1; RL.3.2; RL.3.3; RL.3.4; RL.3.5; RL.3.6; RL.3.7
Wagon Wheels	Barbara Brenner	NF	O	490	Author's Purpose Structure Language Knowledge	RL.3.1; RL.3.2; RL.3.3; RL.3.4; RL.3.5; RL.3.6; RL.3.7
The Lost Lake	Allen Say	F	O	530	Levels of Meaning Structure Language Knowledge	RL.3.1; RL.3.2; RL.3.3; RL.3.4; RL.3.5; RL.3.6; RL.3.7
Jesse Jackson: I Am Somebody	Charnan Simon	NF	O	-	Author's Purpose Structure Language Knowledge	RL.3.1;RL.3.2;RL.3.3; RL.3.4:RL.3.5;RL.3.6; RL.3.7
Sweet Dried Apples	Rosemary Breckler	F	O	-	Levels of Meaning Structure Language Knowledge	RL.3.1; RL.3.2; RL.3.3; RL.3.4; RL.3.5; RL.3.6; RL.3.7

Grade 3 Common Core Trade Bookroom (continued)

Title	Author	F/NF	F&P	Lexile	Text Complexity	Common Core Standards
Sea Turtles	Frank Staub	NF	O	710	Author's Purpose Structure Language Knowledge	RL.3.1; RL.3.2; RL.3.3; RL.3.4; RL.3.5; RL.3.6; RL.3.7
Paricutín: Mountain of Fire	Margarita Robleda	F	O	750	Levels of Meaning Structure Language Knowledge	RL.3.1; RL.3.2; RL.3.3; RL.3.4; RL.3.5; RL.3.6; RL.3.7
A Band of Angels: A Story Inspired	Deborah Hopkinson	F	O	-	Levels of Meaning Structure Language Knowledge	RL.3.1; RL.3.2; RL.3.3; RL.3.4; RL.3.5; RL.3.6; RL.3.7
Roasted Peanuts	Tim Egan	F	P	770	Levels of Meaning Structure Language Knowledge	RL.3.1; RL.3.2; RL.3.4; RL.3.5; RL.3.7
Look What Whiskers Can Do	D.M. Souza	NF	P	620	Author's Purpose Structure Language Knowledge	RI.3.1; RI. 3.2; RI.3.3; RI.3.4; RI.3.5; RI.3.6; RI.3.7; RI.3.8

Grade 3 Common Core Trade Bookroom (continued)

Title	Author	F/NF	F&P	Lexile	Text Complexity	Common Core Standards
Falcons Nest on Skyscrapers	Priscilla Belz Jenkins	NF	P	850	Author's Purpose Structure Language Knowledge	RI.3.1; RI. 3.2; RI.3.3; RI.3.4; RI.3.5; RI.3.6; RI.3.7; RI.3.8
Slap, Squeak, and Scatter	Steve Jenkins	NF	P	1080	Author's Purpose Structure Language Knowledge	RI.3.1; RI. 3.2; RI.3.3; RI.3.4; RI.3.5; RI.3.6; RI.3.7; RI.3.8
Fossils Tell of Long Ago	Aliki	NF	P	-	Author's Purpose Structure Language Knowledge	RI.3.1; RI. 3.2; RI.3.3; RI.3.4; RI.3.5; RI.3.6; RI.3.7; RI.3.8
Let's Go Rock Collecting	Roma Gans	NF	P	-	Author's Purpose Structure Language Knowledge	RI.3.1; RI. 3.2; RI.3.3; RI.3.4; RI.3.4; RI.3.5; RI.3.6; RI.3.7; RI.3.8

Grade 4 Common Core Trade Bookroom

Deliver text complexity and academic rigor with leveled, authentic fiction and nonfiction titles.

The following titles are available in the Grade 4 Common Core Trade Bookroom. Lexile Levels not available for all titles.

Title	Author	F/NF	F&P	Lexile	Text Complexity	Common Core Standards
Mountains	Seymour Simon	NF	P	-	Author's Purpose Structure Language Knowledge	RI.4.1; RI.4.2; RI.4.4; RI.4.5; RI.4.8
Snakes	Seymour Simon	NF	P	-	Author's Purpose Structure Language Knowledge	RI.4.1; RI.4.2; RI.4.4; RI.4.5; RI.4.8
Just Like Mike	Gail Herman	F	Q	450	Levels of Meaning Structure Language Knowledge	RL.4.1; RL.4.2; RL.4.3; RL.4.4; RL.4.5
Clouds of Terror	Catherine A. Welch	NF	Q	540	Author's Purpose Structure Language Knowledge	RI.4.1; RI.4.2; RI.4.4; RI.4.5; RI.4.8

Grade 4 Common Core Trade Bookroom (continued)

Title	Author	F/NF	F&P	Lexile	Text Complexity	Common Core Standards
Amazon Fever	Kathleen Weidner Zoehfeld	F	Q	540	Levels of Meaning Structure Language Knowledge	RL.4.1; RL.4.2; RL.4.4; RL.4.5
The Snow Walker	Margaret K. Wetterer and Charles M. Wetterer	F	Q	-	Levels of Meaning Structure Language Knowledge	RL.4.1; RL.4.2; RL.4.4; RL.4.5; RL.4.6
Coral Reef Hunters	Eric Ethan and Marie Bearanger	NF	Q	860	Author's Purpose Structure Language Knowledge	RI.4.1; RI.4.2; RI.4.4; RI.4.5; RI.4.8
Fire! In Yellowstone	Robert Ekey	NF	Q	840	Author's Purpose Structure Language Knowledge	RI.4.1; RI.4.2; RI.4.4; RI.4.5; RI.4.8
Maiasaura Nests	Duncan Searl	NF	Q	780	Author's Purpose Structure Language Knowledge	RI.4.1; RI.4.2; RI.4.4; RI.4.5; RI.4.8

Grade 4 Common Core Trade Bookroom (continued)

Title	Author	F/NF	F&P	Lexile	Text Complexity	Common Core Standards
Camouflage: Changing to Hide	Bobbie Kalman	NF	Q	850	Author's Purpose Structure Language Knowledge	RI.4.1; RI.4.2; RI.4.4; RI.4.5; RI.4.8
Fire on the Mountain	Jane Kurtz	F	Q	820	Levels of Meaning Structure Language Knowledge	RL.4.1; RL.4.2; RL.4.3; RL.4.4; RL.4.5
SuperCroc	Paul Sereno and Natalie Lunas	NF	Q	820	Author's Purpose Structure Language Knowledge	RI.4.1; RI.4.2; RI.4.4; RI.4.5; RI.4.8
Storms	Seymour Simon	NF	Q	1010	Author's Purpose Structure Language Knowledge	RI.4.1; RI.4.2; RI.4.4; RI.4.5; RI.4.8

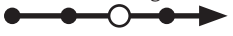
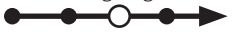
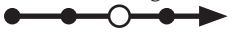
Grade 4 Common Core Trade Bookroom (continued)

Title	Author	F/NF	F&P	Lexile	Text Complexity	Common Core Standards
A Wall of Names: The Story of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial	Judy Donnelly	NF	Q	-	Author's Purpose Structure Language Knowledge 	RI.4.1; RI.4.2; RI.4.4; RI.4.5; RI.4.8
What are you Figuring Now? A Story about Benjamin Banneker	Jeri Ferris	NF	Q	-	Author's Purpose Structure Language Knowledge 	RI.4.1; RI.4.2; RI.4.4; RI.4.5; RI.4.8
The April Fool's Day Mystery	Marion M. Markham	F	R	590	Levels of Meaning Structure Language Knowledge 	RL.4.1; RL.4.2; RL.4.4; RL.4.5
Alligators and Crocodiles	Trudi Strain Trueit	NF	R	-	Author's Purpose Structure Language Knowledge 	RI.4.1; RI.4.2; RI.4.4; RI.4.5; RI.4.8
Whales	Lesley A. Du Temple	NF	R	-	Author's Purpose Structure Language Knowledge 	RI.4.1; RI.4.2; RI.4.4; RI.4.5; RI.4.8

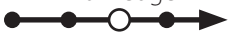
Grade 4 Common Core Trade Bookroom (continued)

Title	Author	F/NF	F&P	Lexile	Text Complexity	Common Core Standards
Bicycle Rider	Mary Scioscia	F	R	550	Levels of Meaning Structure Language Knowledge	RL.4.1; RL.4.2; RL.4.4; RL.4.5
Titanic	Victoria Sherrow	NF	R	670	Author's Purpose Structure Language Knowledge	RI.4.1; RI.4.2; RI.4.4; RI.4.5; RI.4.8
Owls	Sandra Markle	NF	R	920	Author's Purpose Structure Language Knowledge	RI.4.1; RI.4.2; RI.4.4; RI.4.5; RI.4.8
Roberto Clemente	Kenneth Rudeen	NF	R	760	Author's Purpose Structure Language Knowledge	RL.4.1; RL.4.2; RL.4.3; RL.4.4; RL.4.5
Danger on Midnight River	Gary Paulsen	F	R	620	Levels of Meaning Structure Language Knowledge	RL.4.1; RL.4.2; RL.4.3; RL.4.4; RL.4.5

Grade 4 Common Core Trade Bookroom (continued)

Title	Author	F/NF	F&P	Lexile	Text Complexity	Common Core Standards
Ultimate Field Trip 3: Wading into Marine Biology	Susan E. Goodman	NF	R	-	Author's Purpose Structure Language Knowledge 	RI.4.1; RI.4.2; RI.4.4; RI.4.5; RI.4.8
Getting Elected: the Diary of a Campaign	Joan Hewett	NF	R	-	Author's Purpose Structure Language Knowledge 	RI.4.1; RI.4.2; RI.4.4; RI.4.5; RI.4.8
Tunnels, Tracks, and Trains: Building a Subway	Joan Hewett	NF	R	-	Author's Purpose Structure Language Knowledge 	RI.4.1; RI.4.2; RI.4.4; RI.4.5; RI.4.8
Lightning	Stephen Kramer	NF	R	-	Author's Purpose Structure Language Knowledge 	RI.4.1; RI.4.2; RI.4.4; RI.4.5; RI.4.8
Tropical Rain Forest	April Pulley Sayre	NF	S	660	Author's Purpose Structure Language  Knowledge 	RI.4.1; RI.4.2; RI.4.4; RI.4.5; RI.4.8

Grade 4 Common Core Trade Bookroom (continued)

Title	Author	F/NF	F&P	Lexile	Text Complexity	Common Core Standards
There's a Wolf in the Classroom!	Bruce Weide and Patricia Tucker	NF	S	850	Author's Purpose Structure Language Knowledge 	RI.4.1; RI.4.2; RI.4.4; RI.4.5; RI.4.8

Grade 5 Common Core Trade Bookroom

Deliver text complexity and academic rigor with leveled, authentic fiction and nonfiction titles.

The following titles are available in the Grade 5 Common Core Trade Bookroom. Lexile Levels not available for all titles.

Title	Author	F/NF	F&P	Lexile	Text Complexity	Common Core Standards
Centerfield Ballhawk	Matt Christopher	F	S	680	Levels of Meaning Structure Language Knowledge	RL.5.1; RL.5.2; RL.5.4; RL.5.5; RL.5.6; RL.5.7; RL.5.9
The Real Slam Dunk	Charisse K. Richardson	F	S	590	Levels of Meaning Structure Language Knowledge	RL.5.1; RL.5.2; RL.5.4; RL.5.5; RL.5.7; RL.5.9
Whales	Seymour Simon	NF	S	1000	Author's Purpose Structure Language Knowledge	RI.5.1; RI.5.2; RI.5.3; RI.5.7; RI.5.8
Smokejumpers	Diana Briscoe	NF	S	-	Author's Purpose Structure Language Knowledge	RI.5.1; RI.5.2; RI.5.3; RI.5.4; RI.5.7; RI.5.8

Grade 5 Common Core Trade Bookroom (continued)

Title	Author	F/NF	F&P	Lexile	Text Complexity	Common Core Standards
Popcorn!	Elaine Landau	NF	T	790	Author's Purpose Structure Language Knowledge	RI.5.1; RI.5.2; RI.5.4; RI.5.7; RI.5.8
Gerbilitis	Stephanie Spinner and Ellen Weiss	F	T	520	Levels of Meaning Structure Language Knowledge	RL.5.1; RL.5.2; RL.5.4; RL.5.5; RL.5.7; RL.5.9
The Real Lucky Charm	Charisse K. Richardson	F	T	570	Levels of Meaning Structure Language Knowledge	RL.5.1; RL.5.2; RL.5.4; RL.5.5; RL.5.7; RL.5.9
The Year of the Panda	Miriam Schlein	F	T	540	Levels of Meaning Structure Language Knowledge	RL.5.1; RL.5.2; RL.5.4; RL.5.5; RL.5.7; RL.5.9
Owen and Mzee	Isabella Hatkoff	NF	T	-	Author's Purpose Structure Language Knowledge	RI.5.1; RI.5.2; RI.5.3; RI.5.4; RI.5.7; RI.5.8

Grade 5 Common Core Trade Bookroom (continued)

Title	Author	F/NF	F&P	Lexile	Text Complexity	Common Core Standards
Shoeshine Girl	Clyde Robert Bulla	F	T	400	Levels of Meaning Structure Language Knowledge	RL.5.1; RL.5.2; RL.5.4; RL.5.5; RL.5.6; RL.5.7; RL.5.9
Running Girl: The Diary of Ebonee Rose	Sharon Bell Mathis	F	T	-	Levels of Meaning Structure Language Knowledge	RL.5.1; RL.5.2; RL.5.4; RL.5.5; RL.5.6; RL.5.7; RL.5.9
Sports Lab: How Science has Changed Sports	Robert Sheely	NF	T	-	Author's Purpose Structure Language Knowledge	RI.5.1; RI.5.2; RI.5.3; RI.5.4; RI.5.7; RI.5.8
An Even Break	Sid Hite	F	T	-	Levels of Meaning Structure Language Knowledge	RL.5.1; RL.5.2; RL.5.4; RL.5.5; RL.5.6; RL.5.7; RL.5.9
Mummies and Their Mysteries	Charlotte Wilcox	NF	U	1000	Author's Purpose Structure Language Knowledge	RI.5.1; RI.5.2; RI.5.3; RI.5.4; RI.5.7; RI.5.8

Grade 5 Common Core Trade Bookroom (continued)

Title	Author	F/NF	F&P	Lexile	Text Complexity	Common Core Standards
Windcatcher	Avi	F	U	610	Levels of Meaning Structure Language Knowledge	RL.5.1; RL.5.2; RL.5.4; RL.5.5; RL.5.6; RL.5.7; RL.5.9
On the Brink of Extinction: The California Condor	Caroline Arnold	NF	U	-	Author's Purpose Structure Language Knowledge	RI.5.1; RI.5.2; RI.5.3; RI.5.4; RI.5.7; RI.5.8
On the Court with…Lisa Leslie	Matt Christopher	F	U	-	Levels of Meaning Structure Language Knowledge	RL.5.1; RL.5.2; RL.5.4; RL.5.5; RL.5.6; RL.5.7; RL.5.9
El Duque: the Story of Orlando Hernandez	Kenneth LaFreniere	F	W	-	Levels of Meaning Structure Language Knowledge	RL.5.1; RL.5.2; RL.5.4; RL.5.5; RL.5.6; RL.5.7; RL.5.9
Racing the Sun	Paul Pitts	F	Y	-	Levels of Meaning Structure Language Knowledge	RL.5.1; RL.5.2; RL.5.4; RL.5.5; RL.5.6; RL.5.7; RL.5.9