Texts That Teach

Reading closely and thinking critically about global issues are necessary for students to become engaged and informed citizens. The DreamBox Reading Plus content library offers students engaging and enriching selections that celebrate a diverse range of experiences and topics.

Reading Plus offers students the ability to understand the world around them through the expanded lens of mirrors and windows: mirrors that reflect their own lives and experiences, and windows through which they can view the lives and experiences of others.

Selections are written to meet readability and text complexity recommendations outlined in national standards, and include STEM, social science, and literary content that expands a student's knowledge about the world. The program's 19 reading levels include selections that range from early-first-grade readability through college-level texts, as well as five levels of content for older students reading well below grade level.

Authentic Texts

DreamBox Reading Plus includes authentic documents (including journals, letters, diaries, essays, speeches, and interviews) throughout the reading levels to provide meaningful content that exposes students to a wide variety of historical perspectives and personal views.

Samples of Selections Based on Authentic Documents:

In an interview, Melissa Arnot shares how she kept strong and healthy for climbing Mount Everest five times.

In a comparison of journal excerpts, author and activist Helen Keller and her teacher Anne Sullivan recall their memories from the first day they met.

In an eyewitness account, author Jack London records the aftermath of a powerful earthquake that struck San Francisco, California.

In a courtroom proceeding, South African President Nelson Mandela defends his actions in opposition to apartheid laws.

In two speeches, First Lady Barbara Bush and Raisa Gorbacheva, wife of the Soviet leader at the time, Mikhail Gorbachev, spoke about the challenges facing women in modern society.

In an essay, author and editor Edward Bok explains how growing up in poverty taught him invaluable lessons about life.

In a satirical letter, a former enslaved person writes to the plantation owner, subtly pointing out his cruel treatment of human beings.

In a speech, President Obama encourages students to do their part in getting a good education.

In a series of letters, composer Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart shares details of his and his father's travels through Europe with his sister, Nannerl.

In an eyewitness account, one woman remembers her childhood growing up during the Great Depression.

Beyond Lexile®

The Lexile® Framework for Reading measure is calculated based on two quantitative text elements: vocabulary complexity (MLWF: Mean Log Word Frequency) and sentence length (MSL: Mean Sentence Length).

Extensive research demonstrates that vocabulary complexity is the best indicator of text complexity, yet the Lexile measure is heavily weighted in favor of sentence length. Thus, a text with shorter sentences receives a lower Lexile measure (appropriate for students on a lower reading level) even when its vocabulary may be highly complex and more appropriate for an advanced reader. In fact, cutting longer sentences into much shorter ones can greatly reduce a Lexile measure without changing a single word in the text.

DreamBox Reading Plus texts are crafted so text complexity is based on vocabulary. Selections on each reading level are written to include critical academic vocabulary that is appropriate for students reading on that level. As they advance through the Reading Plus program, students encounter a staircase of steadily increasing vocabulary complexity and sentence length, ensuring that they engage with texts that are truly appropriate for each student's reading ability. In addition, texts become progressively more complex in terms of topic, theme, or structure, so students widen and deepen their knowledge as they sharpen their reading skills.

Vocabulary-Based Readability

Reading Plus Level	MLWF†	MSL	Lexile Range	Word Count
Pre-A	>3.75	<6.7	<400	300-500
A*	3.67-4.0	6.7	230-420	600-800
B*	3.62-3.95	10	400-640	800-1200
C*	3.58-3.90	11.45	620-790	1100-1400
D*	3.53-3.85	12.6	770-870	1200-1600
E*	3.49-3.77	14.1	850-980	1400-1700
F	3.48-3.62	15.3	950-1030	1500-1800
G	3.37-3.53	16.6	1000-1080	1600-1900
H	3.28-3.42	17.8	1060-1160	1700-2000
I	3.22-3.35	18+	1100-1220	1800-2100
J	3.17-3.29	18+	1150-1340	1900-2200
K	3.15-3.26	18+	1180-1360	2000-2300
L	3.11-3.23	18+	1230-1380	2100-2400
M	3.07-3.20	18+	1260-1380+	2200-2500+

* Metrics for these levels are applied to content for students reading on elementary school reading levels as well as to content for older students reading well below grade level.

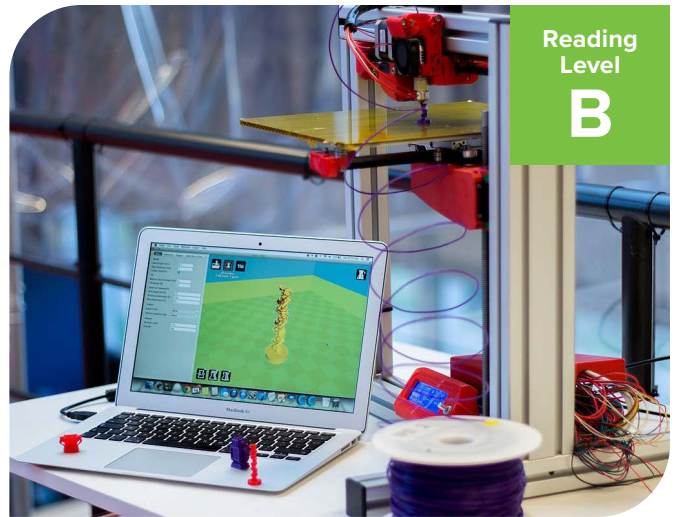† MLWF decreases as vocabulary complexity increases.

Elementary and Secondary Examples

Reading Level A

How the Bee Got Its Sting

Classic Fiction | Word Count: 675

In this story adapted from Aesop's fables, stolen honey makes a little bee very angry.

Reading Level B

*From Printing Press to 3D Printing

Informational Nonfiction | Word Count: 803

Long ago, all printing was done by hand. Today, 3D printers can print with plastic, metal, and even chocolate!

Reading Level C

DJ Focus: The Kelvin Doe Story

Biography | Word Count: 1360

DJ Focus, also known as Kelvin Doe, is using his knowledge of science to help his community and the world.

Reading Level D
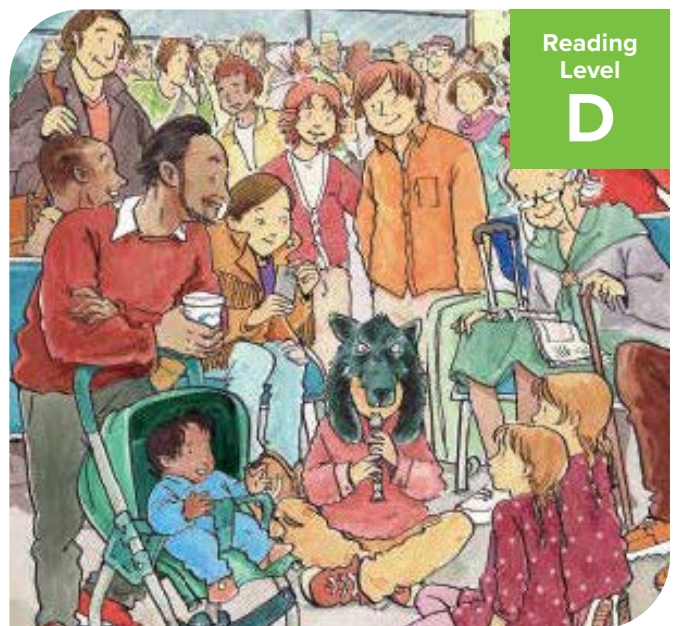
*A Different Drummer

Contemporary Fiction | Word Count: 1543

A teen girl is nervous about how her younger brother will act at the airport. He's not like most kids...what will he do?

* High Interest – Low Readability

Secondary and Postsecondary Examples

Cool Jobs: The Science of Secrets

Informational Nonfiction | Word Count: 1983

When you think of secret codes, you probably think of an agent on a mission, using a code to relay important secret information. But, in reality, a lot of professions use "secret code." In this text, you'll see how researchers use it in their careers.

The WASP Pilots of WWII

**Informational Nonfiction | Word Count: 2001**

Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASPs) were the military's first female pilots. These trailblazing women overcame significant obstacles to pave the way for women in the military today.

The Anthropocene Epoch

Informational Nonfiction | Word Count: 2500+

Nuclear tests, mass extinctions, and…chickens? When the term "Anthropocene" was introduced, scientists thought it would never get the attention of anyone but those interested in things like the nitrogen cycle. Instead, it started appearing everywhere—even in songs.
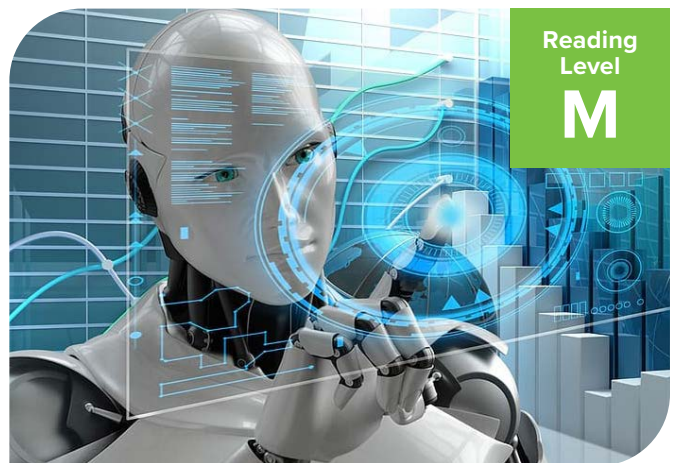
The Machine Stops

Science Fiction | Word Count: 2700+

Can you picture a world where humans no longer live on the surface of Earth, travel is nearly nonexistent, and human needs are fulfilled by an omnipotent Machine? This classic science fiction short story does—and it was written more than 100 years ago.

Comprehension Skills in DreamBox Reading Plus

Every Reading Plus comprehension question is designed to test specific comprehension skills. These skills align with rigorous standards for reading and English Language Arts. Mastery of these skills forms the foundation for proficient grade-level reading. By developing analytical and critical thinking skills, these comprehension questions prepare students to be active and engaged world citizens.

Core

Craft

Critical
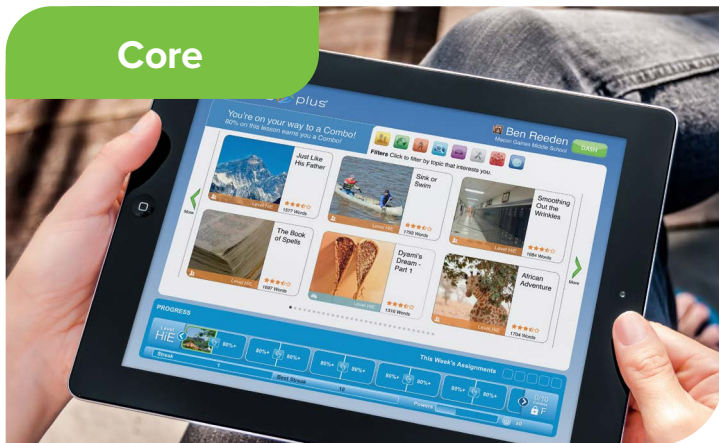
1. Close Reading
- ✓ Identifying Explicit Details
- ✓ Drawing Conclusions, Making Inferences

2. Main Ideas and Themes
- ✓ Determining Main Ideas and Themes
- ✓ Summarizing

3. Interaction of Ideas
- ✓ Predicting Outcomes
- ✓ Analyzing Setting, Plot, and Character
- ✓ Analyzing Cause and Effect

4. Use of Language
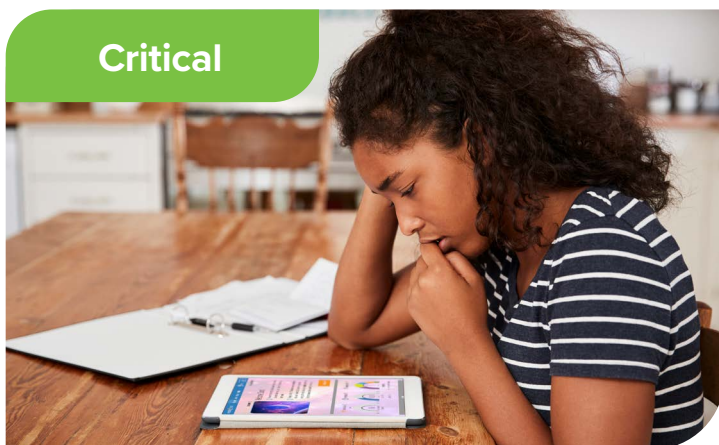- ✓ Interpreting Word Meaning
- ✓ Interpreting Analogies
- ✓ Visualizing

5. Structure
- ✓ Examining Text Structures
- ✓ Examining Sequence of Ideas and Events
- ✓ Examining Genre

6. Point of View
- ✓ Recognizing Author's Purpose
- ✓ Recognizing Persuasive Devices
- ✓ Recognizing Mood and Tone

7. Imaging Scaffolds
- ✓ Interpreting Images

8. Reasoning and Rhetoric
- ✓ Judging Validity
- ✓ Reasoning

9. Comparative Reasoning
- ✓ Comparing, Contrasting, andW Integrating
- ✓ Classifying

Constructed Response Samples

Each DreamBox Reading Plus selection is followed by a constructed response comprehension question. Students are asked to write an evidence-based answer that links themes, ideas, or topics in the text to additional research or background knowledge.

As students advance in Reading Plus, writing prompts become increasingly challenging. **Social-emotional learning** (SEL) writing prompts ask students to synthesize information about SEL with main ideas from the texts. These prompts define a specific SEL competency, then ask the reader to connect this competency to the text.

Level	Prompt Type	Prompt
A*	Narrative	This selection ends with Mr. Little welcoming the new students into his class. Write a new story that tells what happens next. Be sure to include information about what happens to Mr. Little, the new students, and the other children in the classroom. Also tell what happens to Mrs. Mark and the other teacher.
C*	Opinion/Argument	Do you think children as young as Laura should be able to sail around the world alone? Why or why not? Use information from the selection as well as your own ideas to write your answer.
C†	Explanatory	Explain why an astronaut can't have a normal meal on a plate when in outer space. How can a project like VEGGIE help? What might space food be like in another ten years? Use details from the selection and your own thoughts and ideas to support your answer.
D†	Explanatory	How would modern life be different if pi had never been discovered? Give specific examples. Use excerpts from the selection to support and explain your answer.
G	Opinion/Argument	Playing on a U.S. pro team opens up opportunities for athletes, including those from foreign countries. As more athletes set their sights on making the pros, are the cultural and social adjustments they have to make to be successful worth leaving their homelands and hometowns? Write a persuasive essay based on information from this selection and your knowledge of other sports on why or why not playing on a pro team is a worthwhile goal for young athletes.
H	Explanatory SEL	Diversity in literature means giving readers a chance to see themselves and others in what they read. A Twitter exchange between two authors turned into the #WeNeedDiverseBooks movement. Using information from this selection and your own knowledge and opinions, explain why this movement matters.
I	Explanatory SEL	Grit is a character trait that means sticking with something despite significant obstacles. This selection follows the path of Walt Disney's career, which included personal and professional setbacks. How did Disney display grit on his path to success? Include evidence and inferences from the text to support your response.
M	Explanatory	In this selection, the author mentions the importance of interactivity as a key feature in the TV of the future. What does interactivity mean and how will it be incorporated into the new television technology? What other social developments are spurring this desire for interactivity among so many people? Use information from the text and your knowledge of contemporary culture in your answer.

* For students in elementary school † For older students reading well below grade level
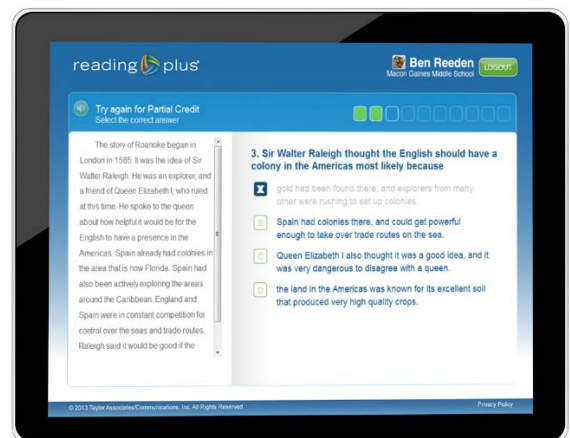
Comprehension Tasks

After each reading selection, ten rigorous comprehension questions are presented that test a student's deep understanding of the text. Comprehension questions are presented in a variety of formats (including selected response, drag and drop, and highlighting) that mirror formats found on national and state assessments.

Reading Plus comprehension questions examine a student's facility with 25 discrete reading skills linked to the anchor skills of Close Reading, Main Idea and Themes, Interaction of Ideas, Use of Language, Structure, Point of View, Imaging, Reasoning and Rhetoric, and Comparative Reading. Comprehension questions grow increasingly complex as students progress through the program.

Task Types

Type	Format
1	Selected Response with Reread
2	Selected Response with Excerpt
3	Selected Response with Two Excerpts
4	Selected Response with Image
5	Multi Correct with Reread
6	Multi Correct with Excerpt
7	Multi Correct with Two Excerpts
8	Drag and Drop
9	Highlighting

Learn more. Visit DreamBox.com