

Scholastic Reading Counts! Getting Started Guide

Welcome to the Scholastic Reading Counts! program. Scholastic Reading Counts! is a computer based reading motivational and management program that helps to encourage and monitor independent reading. Finding yourself in charge of implementing a new computer program at school can be exciting...and frustrating. Although you know change is necessary and you're thrilled about the subsequent improvements that will follow, anticipation can quickly turn to aggravation when you discover that you don't have the resources, time, or staff support needed to get the new program smoothly off the ground. To help you get Reading Counts! started in your school, we have put together this booklet of suggestions, many submitted by educators just like you. By following these guidelines, you'll discover how to involve others in the decision-making process, show value, and get everyone started successfully on the same foot. A smooth Reading Counts! program launch will lead to enthusiastic involvement...and immediate results!

Evaluate and Obtain Resources:

Some considerations that need to be evaluated during the early planning stages include the following:

- ⌚ How many books are available in the school library?
- ⌚ Where will students take Reading Counts! quizzes?
- ⌚ How many quizzes are needed for your student body size?
- ⌚ How will Reading Counts! books be identified?

Number of books needed:

The American Library Association recommends a 20 book per student ratio for an elementary school library. In addition, many schools have classroom libraries for the students. Make sure your library houses books at all levels and genres to entice every student. Quality literature should be a top priority. Books that are interesting and fun to read must be readily available.

Where will computers be located?

Where your students take Reading Counts! quizzes will depend on your school's technological environment and supervisory capacity. Reading Counts! provides a school-wide license; that means every student and teacher at your school is licensed to access the program on any computer in the building.

One disadvantage to running the program on standalone workstations is that student records will be stored only on the computer from where the quiz was taken. Thus, each time a student is ready to take a quiz, he or she must log on to the same computer to ensure records are updated correctly. As well the teacher can only access the reports and students records on that workstation. On a network system students can take quizzes from any network computer and the results will be saved and updated appropriately. Likewise, teachers can access their student records from any network computer.

How many quizzes are needed?

We recommend starting with at least 3 Reading Counts! quizzes per student. A quick and efficient way to match the books in your school library with available Reading Counts! quizzes is to use MyLibrary. This is an inexpensive service that will create a Microsoft Excel™ report of matching quizzes and allow you to buy additional quizzes on a sliding scale discount.

How will Reading Counts! books be identified in the library?

Let the library media specialist take the lead on this decision. There are many alternatives to choose from that include adhering various colored dots representing different grade levels, applying spine labels that show the Lexile and grade-equivalent level*, or setting up a special Reading Counts! section in the library. Keep in mind that there will be an increase in circulation in your library as students are motivated to read with Reading Counts! Whichever method you use, be sure to consider the existing book circulation process.

* The Scholastic Management Suite Quiz Manager includes a book labeling option for all of the quizzes you have installed in your system. Reading Counts! logo spine labels are also available to order.

Form a Committee

To begin, there are many decisions that must be made before the program is introduced to your entire staff and student body. Forming a committee to help with important decisions will benefit you in two ways. First, it tells everyone involved that his or her thoughts and opinions are important. Second, it brings to the table issues and concerns that you may not have thought about. The committee formulation is key in successfully getting started with Reading Counts! Invite participation from those who are most open to change, who have a teamwork attitude, and most importantly...who share your vision and determination in achieving improvement on school-wide reading test scores.

Create a Mission Statement

A Mission Statement should be a clear, concise statement that says who the organization is (school name), what it does, for whom it does it, and where it takes place. In just a few sentences, a mission statement needs to communicate the essence of your organization. Have a simple, easy to remember statement that your staff can effectively use to lobby on behalf of your reading program.

You may want to address the following questions in developing your school's mission statement:

- 🕒 What is the problem or need your school is trying to address?
- 🕒 What makes your school unique?
- 🕒 Who are the beneficiaries of your work?

The answers to these questions could be included in the mission statement. There is no formula for finding the wording that best expresses the collective intention of your organization.

Sample Mission Statement

It is the mission of _____ School to promote reading as an essential skill necessary for academics achievement and life success. As such, we will recognize our readers for their hard work and accomplishments. Faculty, students, parents, and the _____ community will work together as a team to support our reading program.

Keep refining the mission statement until you have a version that people can actively support. The most important issue is that there is consensus on the answers to the questions used in developing the mission statement.

Reward Reading Achievement!

Building an impartial rewards program motivates everyone to succeed and partake in the fun! Involve students, teachers, librarians, administrators, and parents in the reading excitement. Regularly acknowledging achievement can be as easy as printing and handing out award certificates or as extensive as organizing a special field trip. Here are some ideas to consider as you build an incentive program in your school.

🕒 Acknowledge success for everyone to see.

- o Post updates of your students', groups', classes', or school's point or book accumulation in a highly visible location. Update the point or book status on a weekly basis.
- o Announce names of students/classes who achieved success over the Public Address system each week . Include their names in a Reading Counts! newsletter.
- o Wall of Fame: Create a hallway display showing student names and award levels achieved.
- o Award Ceremony: Hold school-wide assemblies to award reading achievement in different categories. Invite parents to attend.

🕒 Plan a special end-of-the-year treat.

- o Book Banquets: Reward students with an ice cream social, pizza party, popcorn and movie, or any other special treat that can be held right in the classroom or cafeteria.
- o Reward good reading with books. Take advantage of Scholastic Book Fair warehouse sales give books as prizes for points accrued.

🕒 Consider acknowledging below-average readers for different reading accomplishments, such as reaching a reading goal, writing a quiz, reading from multiple genre or various topics books, demonstrating the mastery of reading skills in a written or oral response to a book, improving the most as a reader, acquiring new vocabulary words, etc.

- o VIP Lunch: Award students or groups with lunch with the principal, teacher, library media specialist, or parents.
- o Reading Counts! Bookshelf: Invite students to design a book cover for their favorite books. Require each cover to include the title, author, and the designer's name.

- ⌚ **Foster a sense of teamwork and cooperation between students** in reading groups and classes or school-wide. Challenging another school in your district to a Reading Counts! competition is a good way to build school spirit.
 - Book Clubs: Encourage students to form monthly book clubs to discuss the books they've read.
 - Academy Awards: Students nominate their favorite books and authors. Hold a class vote and announce the winners at the ceremony.
 - Groups combine efforts in a poster contest (poster theme is a book title).
 - Video commercials for favorite books read by high point earners.

- ⌚ **Invite and encourage all school personnel and the community to get involved.** Ask community businesses and organizations to donate services or goods that can be used as rewards.
 - Read Aloud Day: Invite parents, teachers, librarians, the principal, local authors, or community mentors to read their favorite children's book aloud and discuss it with students.
 - Radio Reviews: Contact your local radio station or cable station and request time for one student each week or month to deliver a book review.
 - Approach restaurants and amusement parks to contribute coupons. Grocery stores can be asked to contribute Popsicles or juice boxes for your celebration party.
 - Award student with the opportunity to be Principal for the day, or simply swap chairs.

- ⌚ **Balance your acknowledgment program with material and non-materials rewards** (activities, ceremonies, hall displays, etc.).
 - Reading Privileges: Give older students special privileges in recognition of their accomplishments. A popular one is *cut to the front of the lunch-line pass*.
 - Extra credit: When students surpass reading goals, award extra credit, author a Reading Counts! quiz, or help struggling students prepare for a quiz.
 - Gym Pass: Allows the student a no-dress day from gym.
 - Homework pass: For every 10 points over goal, student can skip a homework assignment or drop his lowest homework assignment grade.

Remember...strive to ensure that all students succeed! Customize award levels so everyone can experience success in reading.

Consider Everyone's Role

Role of the Teacher/Reading Specialist in Scholastic Reading Counts!↗

Managing your Classroom

- ⌚ Determine where and when students will take Reading Counts! quizzes. Check that quizzes are installed for titles your students are reading.
- ⌚ Use Book Expert↗ or the e-catalog to identify and order books and quizzes that will broaden your Reading Counts! library. Order duplicate copies of popular titles.
- ⌚ Check books out of the library media center and display them by lexile, genre, or other identifier in the classroom.
- ⌚ Set up student reading groups to target specific reading goals. Groups might be organized by reading level, theme, topic or skill.

Supporting Students

- 🕒 Set Goals: Work with students to establish personal, group, and class goals.
- 🕒 Recommend Books: Use Book Expert to create personalized reading lists for each student, group, or class.
- 🕒 Encourage Student Involvement: Have students select their own books. Choosing books will help build confidence and motivate reading.
- 🕒 Motivate Reading: Create a motivational corner using graphs from Reports, Success Report, and other materials.
- 🕒 Monitor Progress: Use Reading Counts! Reports, including Alerts! and Reading Progress Update, to find out how students are doing.
- 🕒 Confer with Students: Hold student/teacher conferences at regularly scheduled intervals. Use reports to discuss and assess performance.
- 🕒 Intervene When Necessary: Use Alerts! to determine when intervention is necessary.
- 🕒 Award Ceremonies: Plan culminating award ceremonies, including raffles, auctions, and book fairs.

Involving Others

- 🕒 Make Library Media Center Recommendations: Send Student Book Ratings Report to the library media specialist to highlight popular titles. Use Book Expert to suggest books for purchase.
- 🕒 Notify Administrators: Print progress reports, including the Books Read Snapshot and Books Read Timeline to inform administrators of student progress.
- 🕒 Involve Parents: Use Reports, such as the Reading Report Card and Goals Graph to involve parents in student progress. Keep a list of most popular Reading Counts! books by grade available for parents.

Library Media Specialist Role in Reading Counts!

➤ Managing Your Library Media Center

- 🕒 Maintain an effective reading library: use the *Student Book Ratings Report* and Book Expert to identify titles that are popular and those that would enhance your library.
- 🕒 Organize your library media center: use book labels to identify books for which you have Reading Counts! quizzes.
- 🕒 Display books creatively: feature Reading Counts! books in a media center display, school showcases, and other high-traffic areas.
- 🕒 Establish a quiz schedule: allow students to take quizzes at any time throughout the school day. Create a sign-up sheet if necessary.
- 🕒 Update records: Edit MARC records in your online library catalogs to help students find Reading Counts! titles in the library media center.
- 🕒 Use MyLibrary to identify Reading Counts! quizzes available for the books in your library.

➤ Supporting Students

- 🕒 Provide demonstrations: introduce students to the program through group or individual demonstrations.
- 🕒 Help students select appropriate books: use Book Expert to locate titles that match students' reading levels, reading interest, or what they are studying in class. Encourage them to select their own books too.
- 🕒 Target all readers: Include books appropriate for remedial and bilingual readers.
- 🕒 Organize after-school discussion groups or book clubs: select a topic of current or seasonal interest and compile reading lists using Book Expert recommendations. Students in groups might read the same book or different books on related topics and share their reading experiences.

➤ **Involving Others**

- 🕒 Keep teachers informed: send reports, including *Alerts!* and the *Reading Progress Update*, to teachers every two weeks.
- 🕒 Notify administrators: print progress reports, including *Books Read Snapshot Report* and *Books Read Timeline* to inform administrators of student progress.
- 🕒 Develop Scholastic Reading Counts! campaigns: use Reading Counts! to get the whole school excited about reading. Create posters or bulletin displays to promote Reading Counts!
- 🕒 Involve parents: use Reports, such as *Reading Report Card* and the *Goals Graph* to involve parents in student progress. Open the library during parent/teacher evenings to demonstrate Reading Counts! to parents. Let parent's take a quiz. Keep a list of the most popular Reading Counts! books by grade level available for parents to review.

Library Media Specialist Checklist

- Are students allowed flexible access to the school library media center throughout the school day?
- Does the school library media center have a large collection of appealing, high-interest, relevant reading materials that students enjoy reading?
- Does the school library circulation policy permit each student to check out an unlimited number of reading materials?
- Does the school library staff provide teachers in-service related to new books, reading strategies, and reading motivation techniques?
- Does the school library staff model enthusiasm for reading?
- Does the school library staff actively cooperate with the public library to promote reading?
- Does the school library staff plan and/or implement projects in cooperation with teachers to promote reading?
- Does the school library media center staff solicit the assistance of teachers and students in updating the center's collection of reading materials?
- Does the school climate convey the message that reading is a highly valued activity and a priority within the school?
- Is there a school-wide sustained silent reading program in place?
- Is every student read aloud to every day for a minimum of fifteen minutes by at least one educator?

- Are parents encouraged to be involved in the reading motivation/incentive program?

A Principal's Checklist

How well are you supporting reading in your school? Here's a checklist of things to do to help you be a winning coach.

- Keep abreast of current theory and best practice related to reading instruction.
- Engage students and staff members in discussions about good books you or they have read.
- Model the joy of reading by giving students the opportunity to observe you reading for enjoyment books, newspapers, magazines, etc.
- Invite students to your office to read with you, talk about books, or read aloud, either in small groups or individually.
- Visit each classroom and be an active participant in the reading lesson.
- Donate a book in your name to the school library media center.
- Provide funding to build and maintain a print-rich environment, both in the school library media center and in individual classrooms.
- Insist that the school library media center is staffed with a full-time, certified school library media specialist.
- Reserve a portion of any faculty meeting to:
 - Demonstrate an effective instructional strategy.
 - Book talk a professional book
 - Discuss an article from a professional journal.
 - Introduce new resources to the school media center's collection.
 - Dialogue about standards and/or reading goals.
- Provide release time and funding for teachers to engage in professional development activities related to reading.
- Attend reading workshops and conferences.
- Establish a reading advisory committee for the school consisting of teachers and parents.

FAQs:

Considerations before you begin:

Q: *How many books per child should the school library have on hand to ensure a successful Reading Counts! program?*

A: Three books per student enrolled in Reading Counts! is the minimum recommendation.

Q: *How should I label Reading Counts! books?*

A: Color-coding is an excellent way to help you organize books by level; it also makes it easy for students to locate the right books quickly. Another alternative is the Print Book Label feature found in the Scholastic Management Suite. Customizable options allow you to include the Lexile, Reading Level, and Guided Reading Level on the label. Reading Counts! logo labels are also available to order.

Q: *Where is the best location to shelve our Reading Counts! books?*

A: Reading Counts! books can be shelved with other books throughout the library or they can be organized separately. Many Reading Counts! schools have a special section of the library reserved to display Reading Counts! books.

Q: *Where should I put Reading Counts! in the MARC record?*

A: Below are some recommended MARC record fields that can be used to identify Reading Counts! titles.

526-Study Program Information Note

Q: *How do I assess my students reading comprehension level?*

A: The Scholastic Reading Inventory (SRI) is a research-based and scientifically validated computer adaptive reading comprehension program that shares the Scholastic Management Suite. Using 15 different reports the SRI program can assess and track growth, place student reading levels and provide necessary documentation for both teachers and administrators. Please contact your Scholastic Reading Counts/Reading Inventory Account Manager for further details, 1-800-387-1437.

Reading Counts! Quizzes

Q: *Should I assign students appropriate books to read or let them select their own?*

A: Self-selection is an important part of an independent reading program. By allowing students to select their own books as often as possible, you encourage ownership and responsible reading practice. Should you feel it necessary to assign books, you can do so by using the search feature within Book Expert to create a book list by specific reading levels, Lexile range, interest levels, genre, topic, and many other categories.

Q: *What if a student wants to read a book for which there is no Reading Counts! quiz?*

A: Encourage him to read it. Students should be given opportunities to read simply for the pure pleasure of reading. The Scholastic Management Suite includes a teacher quiz option that allows teachers to write their own quizzes. Be sure to check the Scholastic Reading Counts! e-catalog for the latest update of all quizzes available to order.

Q: *How can Reading Counts! quizzes help me meet my instructional needs?*

A: Reading Counts! quizzes are grouped into a wide assortment of collections that span a variety of categories including theme, genre, topic, author, and also grade level, guided reading level, Lexile level and reading level. The teacher-quiz function can be used across all academic areas as it allows every teacher to create quizzes for his or her own class (social studies, science, and math).

Q: *Can a student watch a movie and pass the quiz even if he has not read the book?*

A: If a movie is released for a recent or future Reading Counts! quiz, the Scholastic quiz writers view the movie and then formulate quiz questions to ensure that students must read the book in order to pass the quiz.

Q: *How do Reading Counts! quizzes address higher level thinking skills?*

A: The primary goal of Reading Counts! is to motivate students to read by allowing them to experience reading success; however, many quiz questions are written in the cause and effect and vocabulary skills format. You can also access Book Expert and search for titles by specific comprehension skill areas to get a list of Reading Counts! books that address a targeted skill area.

Scholastic Management Suite

Q: *Can several educators use the Scholastic Management Suite at the same time on different computers (networked).*

A: Reading Counts! allows unlimited student AND teacher access. Assuming your network administrator has not established network restrictions, any number of students and teachers can utilize the program concurrently

Entering Students

Q: *Can I enter a student name under the group or class tabs?*

A: No, students must be entered under the Student tab. Student names can also be added through Easy Start and Edit (menu bar).

Q: *I need to enroll hundreds of students. How can I quickly tell if a student is already assigned to a group?*

A: The program will tell you that the student you are trying to add has already been entered if you attempt to add a student already enrolled in the Reading Counts! program. You cannot determine a student's group enrollment from the student tab. Groups can be filtered by teacher and individual group enrollment viewed.

Q: *Can I enter a student name under the group or class tabs?*

A: No, students must be entered under the Student tab. Student names can also be added through Easy Start and Edit (menu bar).

Settings

Q: *How are Settings tied to the student?*

A: Settings allow you to customize Reading Counts! to meet the individual needs of your students. For example, under Settings you can customize the number of attempts a student may have to pass a quiz, the number of correct answers required to pass a quiz, and individual goals (number of points or books read). You can also enter settings for an entire group or class; the settings will adjust for each student in the group/class.

Q: *If the Settings are entered or changed for a student having more than one teacher, will his settings be the same for all teachers?*

A: The student's Settings will be the same for all teachers if the program is on networked computers. If one teacher changes the student's settings, they will change for all teachers. If the program is loaded on standalone computers, each administrator can enter his/own settings for a particular student.

Q: *Can I designate a quiz as inactive or active for individual students?*

A: You cannot designate a quiz as inactive for individual students. You can restrict a quiz through the student Settings function for selected students. When a quiz is designated inactive through the Quiz Manager, it becomes inactive for all students on the database.

Reports

Q: *How can I generate a Student Book Rating report for a particular group?*

A: Easy! Simply go to the group tab, highlight the desired group, then select reports and highlight *Student Book Rating* report. Preview or print the report.

Q: *When customizing Reports, can I generate the report to View By individual students, groups or class?*

A: The View By options in Reports depend on the active tab. When the student tab is active, many reports will allow you to view by student, teacher, class, group, or grade. When the class or group tab is active, many reports will limit the View By options to only class or group. (Note: some reports will only allow you to View By student.)

Technical Questions

Q: *How do I install quizzes from a Scholastic Reading Counts! Quiz CD?*

A: From the Scholastic Management Suite, enter Book Expert and select *Install Quizzes*. Enter the drive containing your quiz CD and click OK.

Q: *How do I edit a student's quiz history?*

A: From the Scholastic Management Suite, highlight the student name and click on Edit. Under the "select program" menu, select Reading Counts! and click on the Quiz Data bar. You can add new quiz information or edit/delete existing quiz data by highlighting the appropriate title.

Q: *How do I restore the database? What do I do when I get an error message: How do I run the Maintenance Utility? How do I perform a network installation of Reading Counts!? How do I set the database path? What NT permissions do I need for the Scholastic folder? What are the other backdoor passwords to SMS?*

A: Contact Scholastic Technical Support at 1-800-558-8392.

The Lexile Framework

Q: *What is the Lexile Framework™?*

A: The Lexile Framework is a reading measure that matches books to readers. It is unique because it uses a common metric—a Lexile measure—to assess both the level of the reader and the level of the text, making the Framework more than just a measure of readability. By placing both reader and text on the same absolute scale, the Lexile Framework provides a more accurate match between the two. This focus on text readability

AND the reader enables educators to not only look at the reading standard for the grade level, but the standard for the individual student as well.

In short, the Lexile Framework enables educators to match students to text. When readers are targeted, they read with confidence, control, with just the right level of challenge--- conditions that are necessary to keep students reading *and* growing.

Q: *What is the Research behind the Lexile Framework*

A: Over the past 15 years, recognized scientists in the field of testing and measurement from Duke University, the University of Chicago, Stanford University, and the University of North Carolina created the Lexile Framework with support from grants by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development. This group successfully tested the Lexile Framework with over 400,000 students. Once the research was complete, two of these esteemed scientists established MetaMetrics, an independent research and development firm focused on integrating assessment with instruction.

MetaMetrics continues ongoing research regarding factors that affect readability. Their goal is to provide educators with a tool to improve the students' overall learning, specifically reading comprehension, by placing both the student and text on the same scale. Today, the Lexile Framework instructional tool is recognized as the most accurate way to match readers with text

Q: *What Makes the Lexile Framework Unique?*

A: The Lexile Framework measures the difficulty of the entire book, not just isolated passages or sentences as most other readability measures do.

Q: *How will the Lexile Framework Benefit My Students and me?*

A: The Lexile Framework provides educators with a highly effective tool for evaluating and monitoring students' achievement in reading. And the Lexile Framework provides an excellent means of encouraging parental involvement, by giving parents both a clear idea of their child's progress and a selection of books that parent and child can read together. Time spent reading outside of school is a powerful predictor of future academic and workplace success.

Q: *Why did Scholastic choose to use the Lexile Framework?*

A: Scholastic chose to use the Lexile Framework after an intensive study of all the readability measures that exist. This important decision was made due to the research and validity behind the Framework's effectiveness in matching students to text.

Q: *How is a Lexile Text Measure Determined?*

A: Lexile text measure is the measure of reading difficulty to any written material. At MetaMetrics, the entire book (not just a paragraph or a few pages like other readability formulas) is scanned into a computer-based program called the Lexile analyzer, which determines the Lexile measure of the book. The analyzer evaluates the text for syntactic complexity (sentence difficulty and length) and word frequency (how often the word is used in the English language vocabulary). Research shows that sentence difficulty and word frequency are the two most powerful indicators of a student's ability to read.

Q: *What is the range of Lexiles?*

A: Lexile measures range from below zero (beginning readers) to 1,800L (postgraduate school and into the workplace) and exist for more than 30,000 books, fiction and nonfiction, from hundreds of publishers. New titles are being added monthly. In addition, many textbooks from hundreds of publishers have been Lexiled, as well as newspapers, magazines, manuals, etc.

Q: *How is a Lexile reader measure determined?*

A: In addition to assessing the reading level of text, the Lexile Framework can also be used to evaluate the comprehension level of a reader. The most efficient and accurate way to determine a student's Lexile measure is to administer the Scholastic Reading Inventory (SRI), a reading comprehension assessment available in both print and interactive versions. SRI uses authentic text passages drawn from fiction and nonfiction material to test students' comprehension. After they read each passage, students answer a fill in the blank statement that assesses their understanding of what they read.

Another way to assess a reader's measure is by having the student read aloud passages from a book. Ask the student to read a few passages from a Lexile text measured book and evaluate the amount of ease or difficulty the student has reading the passages. If the student is experiencing a significant degree of difficulty reading the passages, his Lexile measure is most likely below that of the book. If he is able to read the passages with ease, his Lexile measure either equals or is above the book's Lexile measure.

Lexile Measures

Q: *What is the correspondence of Lexile measure to grade levels?*

A: The Lexile levels do not translate specifically to grade levels. Within any one classroom, there will be a range of readers. In a fifth-grade classroom, there will be some readers who are reading above grade level and others reading below. To say that some books are "just right" for fifth graders assumes that all fifth graders are reading at the same level. The Lexile Framework matches readers with texts at whatever level the reader is reading.

Once students' Lexile measures have been determined, the world of books is open to them. Choosing the right book for the right reader is key to helping students grow in their reading ability.

Q: *How do I adjust Lexiles based on my instructional purposes?*

A: When matching readers to text, one needs to consider the instructional purpose. Is the purpose to facilitate independent or instructional reading? Is it to expose the student to difficult vocabulary and content that requires skill building, or to let him read for the simple pleasure of reading?

To accommodate different instructional objectives, the Lexile Framework has developed guidelines for adjusting Lexile measures within students' instructional and independent reading zones. Think of a sliding scale as you consider what level of materials is appropriate for students in different reading contexts. When students read down from their Lexile measure, as much as 250 Lexiles, they encounter text that is targeted to their independent level and becomes increasingly easy for them to read. When students read up from their Lexile measure, as much as 250 Lexiles, they encounter text that increases in challenge and should be targeted for instructional purposes. Within the instructional and independent reading zones, books may be used for a variety of purposes.

Q: *Can I use Lexiles with my core-reading program?*

A: Many of the books in your core-reading program may be included in the vast database of Lexiled books from hundreds of publishers. Check the Reading Counts! database of books in Book Expert for the books you are using or visit the Scholastic e-catalog at www.scholastic.com/readingcounts/ecatalog or the Lexile website (Lexile.com) to determine which titles have Lexiles.

Q: *How do prior knowledge, interest, motivation, and other such supports influence the Lexile Framework?*

A: The Lexile Framework is one tool that influences a reader's ability to handle text. It does not account for prior knowledge, interest, motivation, etc. any more than any other readability formula does. As such, it is important for the educator to not only examine the test before assigning it to students, but to consider the interest level of the book, the student's prior knowledge of and experience with the topic, and the student's interests and motivation. One should never discourage a student from reading a book she wishes to read if her interest and motivation will enable her to read it.

Though the Lexile Framework addresses only the readability of the text, Scholastic identifies the interest levels of the books published in an effort to help teachers select books for students. The Book Expert in the Scholastic Management Suite incorporates an interest level search feature to help refine the list of appropriate titles.

The Lexile Framework is exactly that, a framework. Use it to guide decision-making and to offer suggestions and recommendations for appropriately leveled books. Ultimately, nothing can replace your knowledge of your students and the books they love to read. To help students develop both reading ability and reading motivation, teachers need to establish the conditions for reading to be engaging

Contact Information:

Scholastic Inside Account Manager:

333 North Randall Road
Suite 130
St. Charles, IL 60174
Phone: 1-800-387-1437
Fax: 1-630-443-9092

Scholastic Reading Counts! Customer Service
2931 East McCarty
P.O. Box 7502
Jefferson City, MO 65102
1-877-268-6871

Scholastic Reading Counts! Hands On Training
524 Broadway
New York, NY 10012
Phone: 1-212-965-7372
Fax: 1-212-965-7487
SRCTraining@scholastic.com

Scholastic Reading Counts! Technical Support
1-800-558-8392
techsupport@scholastic.com

