



June 2010  
Volume 8: Number 6  
Part 1



ND  
Lifelong  
Learning  
Resource Center



## Finding the Right Books for Every Reader Lexile

<http://www.lexile.com/>

Grade level and reading level are two different things. Lexile measures a child's ability on reading comprehension, not grade level. This helps to better match books to the child.

McGraw Hill has information on Lexile at this site:

<http://www.ctb.com/ctb.com/control/aboutUsNewsShowAction?newsId=313&p=aboutUs>

**TABE – Lexile: TABE Reading scores now are available as Lexile measures. For more information:**

[http://www.nwlincs.org/mtlincs/opi/TABE\\_Lexile\\_Overview.pdf](http://www.nwlincs.org/mtlincs/opi/TABE_Lexile_Overview.pdf)

<http://www.lexile.com/using-lexile/TABE/>

## Reading

### Hank Zipzer Series

<http://www.hankzipzer.com/>

Henry Winkler (the Fonz) has written a series of books for children in grades 3 through 6. "Hank Zipzer: The World's Best Underachiever." Henry Zipzer (nicknamed Hank) is a fourth-grader who is having difficulty learning. The book series follows the everyday adventures of a bright boy with learning challenges.

Henry Winkler has dyslexia. When he was growing up no one knew about dyslexia and he was called stupid and lazy. He said it was painful to grow up with dyslexia because he was always trying to cover up that learning academics was difficult. He says of his childhood "I grew up with a high level of low self-esteem."

Hank Zipzer quiz:

<http://quizzes.familyeducation.com/childrens-book/childrens-book-characters/62018.html>

LD Online:

[http://www.ldonline.org/firstperson/Hank\\_Zipzer,\\_aka,\\_Henry\\_Winkler](http://www.ldonline.org/firstperson/Hank_Zipzer,_aka,_Henry_Winkler)

## Books

Welcome to Wikibooks,  
the open-content textbooks collection that anyone  
can edit.

2,465 books with 34,807 pages

[http://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Main\\_Page](http://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Main_Page)

## Words Out Loud

Did you know that Senator Ryan Taylor from Towner, ND writes a section for AgWeek? His article on May 24, 2010 is worth reading for parents and educators to pass on. He starts out with: *“One of the best things you can do for your children, they say, is to read to them. I suppose it comes after giving them a safe place to sleep, healthy meals and a warm hug, but it’s right up close to the top.”*

He also talks about reading to his dad now as his dad’s voice has been taken because of Parkinson’s.

The importance of reading to and for different ages should constantly be stressed to our families, students, and educators.

To read his articles go to:

[http://www.agweek.com/event/article/id/16441/publisher\\_ID/80/](http://www.agweek.com/event/article/id/16441/publisher_ID/80/)

### Think Alouds

Think Aloud is a study skill for reading difficult material. This helps question and visualize. Teachers verbalize their thoughts while they are reading. This helps with comprehension.

Purpose, Procedure, and Checklist:

[http://literacy.kent.edu/eureka/strategies/think\\_aloud.pdf](http://literacy.kent.edu/eureka/strategies/think_aloud.pdf)

Navigating Meaning: Using Think-Alouds to Help Readers Monitor Comprehension:

<http://www.nwp.org/cs/public/print/resource/improvingcomprehension/2001/wilhem.html>

Many more sites with some protocols and handouts:

<http://forpd.ucf.edu/strategies/stratthinkaloud.html>

### Scaffolding Think Aloud with Text:

<http://www.greece.k12.ny.us/instruction/ela/6-12/Reading/Reading%20Strategies/thinkaloud.htm>

### Building Reading Comprehension Through Think Alouds

<http://www.readwritethink.org/classroom-resources/lesson-plans/building-reading-comprehension-through-139.html>

## THIEVES

A technique for students to preview a textbook: Titles, Headings, Introduction, Every first sentence in a paragraph, Visuals and Vocabulary, Summary.

This can be downloaded in Word from:

[http://www.readwritethink.org/files/resources/lesson\\_images/lesson112/manz.pdf](http://www.readwritethink.org/files/resources/lesson_images/lesson112/manz.pdf)

## Writing

### Writing Next

*Writing Next: Effective Strategies to Improve Writing of Adolescents in Middle and High Schools.* There are some interesting points that effect adult educators and really come as no surprise.

**The Executive Summary states the following:**

*Writing well is not just an option for young people—it is a necessity. Along with reading comprehension, writing skill is a predictor of academic success and a basic requirement for participation in civic life and in the global economy. Yet every year in the United States large numbers of adolescents graduate from high school unable to write at the basic levels required by colleges or employers. In addition, every school day*

7,000 young people drop out of high school (Alliance for Excellent Education, 2006), many of them because they lack the basic literacy skills to meet the growing demands of the high school curriculum (Kamil, 2003; Snow & Biancarosa, 2003). Because the definition of literacy includes both reading and writing skills, poor writing proficiency should be recognized as an intrinsic part of this national literacy crisis.

<http://www.all4ed.org/files/archive/publications/WritingNext/WritingNext.pdf>

### CAUSE FOR ALARM

- College instructors estimate that **50% of high school graduates are not prepared for college-level writing** (Achieve, Inc., 2005).
- U.S. graduates' **literacy skills are lower than those of graduates in most industrialized nations**, comparable only to the skills of graduates in Chile, Poland, Portugal, and Slovenia (OECD, 2000).

## Science

### Roots and Worms

<http://www.hometrainingtools.com/images/art/YSEMay2010.pdf>

### Clouds and Rain

<http://www.hometrainingtools.com/images/art/YSEApril10.pdf>

### Genetics

In one of the last newsletters there was an article on ears and genetics. It discussed whether you had a free earlobe or an attached earlobe. Here is another tidbit to add to that science session:



Chickens that lay brown eggs have red ear lobes. There is a genetic link between the two.

## ESL

### Blog from TESOL Conference How Will My Blog Bloom

This has a list of individual blogs for people to view and read.

<http://blogblossoms.edublogs.org/2010/04/18/tesol-2010-boston/>

## Math

### Think Aloud for Math

Think Aloud also can be used with math. Here are some sites that use Think Aloud for math:

This site gives:

The math standard: Number sense

Objective

Materials

Procedure

Guided Practice

Self Assessment

<http://www.lessonplanspage.com/MathNumReasoningProbSolvingThinkAlouds69.htm>

<http://www.lessonplanspage.com/MathNumReasoningProbSolvingThinkAlouds69.htm>

Scholastic has added ideas to think alouds:

<http://www2.scholastic.com/browse/article.jsp?id=3584>

This site gives visual representations of a math think aloud:

<http://www.tantasqua.org/superintendent/Profdevelopment/etthinkalouds.html>

You Tube for Math Think Aloud:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4JjY2XZNNz4>

Literacy and 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Math:

<http://videos.howstuffworks.com/hsw/15424-literacy-and-5th-grade-math-the-think-aloud-strategy-video.htm>

Math Problem:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L58eaE12adk>

## **Activities for all Educational Areas**

### **Post-It Notes**

Vocabulary scavenger hunt, multiplication tables, learning a different language, spelling game, vocabulary review, sight words, telling time, main idea, letter sounds, find the pronoun, rock/mineral identification and much, much more!! Great activities designed by teachers for students to use in the classroom. There are also archived activities to find. When you “view” the activity you will find materials needed, description of the activity, instructions for the activity, and related activities for later. You also have the option to print out the activity.

[http://www.post-itteachers.com/?WT.srch=1&WT.mc\\_id=SE\\_Teachers\\_resources-worksheets&gclid=CPSI-LGd4aECFSNO5wodmnXsMA](http://www.post-itteachers.com/?WT.srch=1&WT.mc_id=SE_Teachers_resources-worksheets&gclid=CPSI-LGd4aECFSNO5wodmnXsMA)

## **Merlot Multimedia Educational Resource for Learning and Online Teaching**

<http://www.merlot.org/merlot/index.htm>

Merlot has many ideas and links to other websites. I like to go to the “Communities” and “Learning Materials” sections to find ideas for math, writing, and more. Take your time and peruse through this website. You will find many ideas to use and websites to use with your students.

### **Read, Write, Think After School Resources**

<http://www.readwritethink.org/parent-afterschool-resources/>

### **Educational Games**

<http://www.merriam-webster.com/game/new.htm>

### **Kim Komando Recommendations:**

#### **Flow Charts**

This free Website helps you create organizational diagrams. It has preset shapes and connectors for diagrams of all types.

[www.gliffy.com](http://www.gliffy.com)

### **Practice Keyboarding**

<http://keybr.com/>

### **Free Internet Filter for Kids**

<http://kidrocket.org/>

### **Paper Grader**

Copy and paste your paper into paper grader and your information will be analyzed immediately for grammar, spelling, etc. This is free!! For high school, college, and above.

[http://www.paperrater.com/free\\_paper\\_grader](http://www.paperrater.com/free_paper_grader)

---

### **Award Maker**

Need a certificate or award??? This site has many different kinds of awards that you can use to make a certificate. Has many templates for newsletters, schools, sports, etc. And it is free.

<http://www.certificatestreet.com/index.html>

---

## **Classroom Management**

### **Good Behavior Game**

This is a classroom management strategy is designed to improve aggressive/disruptive classroom behavior. It is implemented when children are in 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade in order to provide students with the skills they need to respond to later, possibly negative, life experiences and societal influences.

Manual:

<http://www.evidencebasedprograms.org/static/pdfs/GBG%20Manual.pdf>

---

### **Digital Citizenship Using Technology Wisely**

<http://www.digitalcitizenship.net/>

There are nine themes for digital citizenship: Etiquette, Communication, Literacy, Access, Commerce, Law, Rights and Responsibilities, Health and Wellness, and Security. These can be found at:

[http://www.digitalcitizenship.net/Nine\\_Elements.html](http://www.digitalcitizenship.net/Nine_Elements.html)

---

### **What's New in NRS?**

[http://www.nwlincs.org/mtlincs/opi/What's\\_New\\_NRS\\_Feb\\_2010.pdf](http://www.nwlincs.org/mtlincs/opi/What's_New_NRS_Feb_2010.pdf)

Next newsletter will be out in Mid-June!

I am also working on ways for people to share resources online for all to view. If you have any suggestions please email them!

Laurel