



EXPEDITIONARY
LEARNING

Grade 8: Module 1: Unit 2

Recommended Texts



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The list below includes texts with a range of Lexile® text measures about refugees’ transition to America and the Vietnamese refugee experience.

It is imperative that students read a high volume of texts at their reading level in order to continue to build the academic vocabulary and fluency demanded by the CCLS.

Note that districts and schools should consider their own community standards when reviewing this list. Some texts in particular units or modules address emotionally difficult content.

Where possible, texts in languages other than English are also provided. Texts are categorized into three Lexile levels that correspond to Common Core Bands: below grade band, within band, and above band. Note, however, that Lexile® measures are just one indicator of text complexity, and teachers must use their professional judgment and consider qualitative factors as well. For more information, see Appendix 1 of the Common Core State Standards.

Common Core Band Level Text Difficulty Ranges:

(As provided in the NYSED Passage Selection Guidelines for Assessing CCSS ELA)

- Grade 4–5: 740–1010L
- Grade 6–8: 925–1185L

Title	Author And Illustrator	Text Type	Lexile Measure
Lexile text measures in Grade 4–5 band level (<740L-925L)			
<i>Last Airlift: A Vietnamese Orphan’s Rescue from War</i>	Marsha Forchuk Skrypuch (author)	Informational	670
<i>A Million Shades of Gray</i>	Cynthia Kadohota (author)	Literature	700
<i>Noodle Pie</i>	Ruth Starke (author)	Informational	770
<i>Goodbye, Vietnam</i>	Gloria Whelan (author)	Literature	810
<i>Shadow of the Dragon</i>	Sherry Garland (author)	Literature	840
<i>Echoes of the White Giraffe</i>	Sook Nyul Choi (author)	Literature	870
<i>The Lotus Seed</i>	Sherry Garland (author)	Literature	880



Title	Author And Illustrator	Text Type	Lexile Measure
Lexile text measures within Grade 6 band level (925L–1070L)			
<i>Escape from Saigon: How a Vietnam War Orphan Became an American Boy</i>	Andrea Warren (author)	Biography	930
<i>Hearts of Sorrow: Vietnamese-American Lives</i>	James Freeman (author)	Informational	930
<i>Vietnamese in America</i>	Lori Coleman (author)	Informational	940
<i>Refugees & Asylum Seekers</i>	Dave Dalton (author)	Informational	940
Lexile text measures within Grade 6–8 band level (925L–1185L)			
<i>Migration and Refugees</i>	Quang Nhuong Huynh (author)	Biography/Literature	1090
<i>The Land I Lost: Adventures of a Boy in Vietnam</i>	Quang Nhuong Huynh (author)	Biography/Literature	1090
<i>When Heaven and Earth Changed Places: A Vietnamese Woman’s Journey from War to Peace</i>	Le Ly Hayslip with Jay Wurts (authors)	Historical Biography	1100
<i>Refugees</i>	Clarissa Aykroyd (author)	Informational	1150
<i>Where the Ashes Are: The Odyssey of a Vietnamese Family</i>	Qui Duc Nguyen (author)	Biography	NoLXL (YA)



Title	Author And Illustrator	Text Type	Lexile Measure
Lexile text measures above band level (over 1185L)			
<i>Strangers from a Different Shore: A History of Asian Americans</i>	Ronald Takaki (author)	Informational	No LXL (AD)
<i>Voices of Vietnamese Boat People: Nineteen Narratives of Escape and Survival</i>	Mary Terrell Cargill and Jade Quang Huynh (editors)	Biography	NoLXL (AD)
<i>The Vietnamese</i>	Michelle Houle (author)	Informational	NoLXL (YA)
<i>Weeping Under This Same Moon</i>	Jana Laiz (author)	Literature	NoLXL (YA)