

Finding “Just Right” Books

Search by Lexile

Lexile™ is a measure of how difficult a book is to comprehend (“readability”), and you can search it in NoveList. However, your book search really comes alive when you pair a Lexile search with other filters to pinpoint books that are of interest to the reader.

TRY IT

On the **Advanced Search** page, find the **Lexile Score limiter**, and enter **880** (this is the level of *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone*, as an example)

Click **Search**

On the left, narrow to a favorite genre or appeal. Try Tone: **Suspenseful** and Character: **Strong female**

Lexile search examples

Copy and paste these sample search strings. These searches use field codes. To learn more, look in help for “search using field codes”.

LX > 420 AND LX < 650 AND GN Early chapter books
(to find chapter books with Lexile between 925-1070)

LX > 530 AND RL 2
(to find books at teen level with Lexile greater than 530)

LX < 530 AND GN “Books for adult new readers”
(to find books for adults with Lexile less than 530)

Search by AR

Accelerated Reader™ (AR), like Lexile, is used to indicate appropriateness and difficulty of a book. AR includes three elements: Interest Level (IL), Book Level (BL), and Points (Pts). A search of AR levels can also be paired with a genre, appeal, or topic.

TRY IT

On the **Advanced Search** page, find the **AR Interest Level** limiter and select **MG**

In the **AR Book Level** limiter, enter **5.5**

Click **Search**

Limit the result list using the filters on the left. Try Tone: **Funny** and Genre: **Science fiction**

AR search examples

IL UG AND GN Biographies
(to find biographies with an AR interest level of UG)

RD 3.7 AND AP Silly
(to find silly books with an AR book level of 3.7)

Search by grade or length

Need a quick list of books that are just right for a specific grade? Or maybe a student needs a book of a specific length? On the Advanced search page, you’ll find extra limiters for Grade Level and Number of Pages.

When to use:



Librarians: Need to help young readers who are looking for a book for school?

Readers: Want a book about your favorite topic, but NOT one that is for “little kids”?

Parents: Having trouble finding books that are challenging (but not frustrating) for your child?