



Friday Focus

Carter County Schools



Coming Events

- Sept. 25 4th and 5th grade Literacy Academy @ TCES
- Sept. 25 LMS Academy @WCMS
- Sept. 26 6th Grade Academy @WCMS
- Sept. 27 7th Grade Academy @ WCMS
- Sept. 28 EILA

Inside this issue:

[Lexile Tools](#)

[Live Science](#)

[Dogo News--Social Studies](#)

[Math in the Real World--Newsela](#)

[Tween Tribune](#)

[Free Reading Passages](#)



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Selecting Text

Choosing an appropriate text for our students can be a challenge. We can no longer grab a basal reader and have our kids keep their noses buried in the pages all year long. Instead, we have the enormous inventory of the world wide web at our fingertips. This can be a blessing and a curse! Our students can access texts from all over the world and that access means they can explore any topic on any level at any time and by any author. It is quite overwhelming! We must become educated users of the tools within our reach. That means learning which texts are best for the students in our classrooms.

There are three main factors to consider when choosing text, whether it is via the internet or otherwise. There are qualitative and quantitative measures, and then there is the interaction between the reader and the task. When we break it down, it looks like this.

- **Qualitative:** the structure, language conventions, shades of meaning, and prior knowledge requirements of the text.
- **Quantitative:** readability measures of the text like word count, Lexile, grade level, etc.
- **Reader/Task Interaction:** purpose for reading, motivation of the reader, questions to be answered, and complexity of the task

So, let's be picky about how we select a text. Then, once we locate a text we like, it won't hurt to take a minute and think about the prior knowledge our kids will need to have before they read it. It won't take long to make sure the text is the right Lexile, or if it is on grade level. Furthermore, students will certainly benefit if the reading is purposeful and if they are motivated by the task at hand.

Inside this Issue has some great links to resources that will make text selection a little easier.

Spotlight on Excellence



Leslie Kee's students at ECMS (left) used beans for counters on their math mats in order to model percent proportions and equations. The visual representations helped them find percent of a number with great success!

Stacy Mosier and Christy Bowling (right) did a Think Aloud using the Thought Bubble strategy for the kindergarten students in their class at Prichard Elementary. Thinking aloud is a great way to demonstrate metacognition for children because that kind of self-awareness will help them strengthen their reading comprehension. What a great example of teamwork!