



Mississippi Text Exemplars

Office of Curriculum and Instruction
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The Mississippi Text Exemplars list is a compilation of text titles gathered from teachers and English Language Arts specialists from around the state of Mississippi. Over 80 teachers and curriculum specialists were contacted and asked to identify texts that were used in grades 7-12 classrooms in their districts. The sample texts were compiled into a list based on the response of Mississippi teachers. The list was then vetted by a task force of Mississippi English Language Arts teachers and specialists, including members of higher education communities in Mississippi. This task force vetted these texts based on the following criteria:

- Appropriate age and grade-level text complexity
- Appropriate age and grade level content
- Value of literature and informational text to classroom instruction
- Recommendations of Mississippi English Language Arts teachers and specialists

This list is by no means exhaustive. It is not a required reading list for Mississippi students, nor is it a suggested reading list. The list serves as a sample list of texts that have been used within the state of Mississippi.



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Grade 7

Title	Author	Text Type
The Legend of King Arthur	Howard Pyle	L
Hatchet	Gary Paulsen	L
A Light in the Forest	Conrad Richter	L
Where the Red Fern Grows	Wilson Rawls	L
The Outsiders	SE Hinton	L
The Giver	Lois Lowry	L
My Brother Sam is Dead	James Lincoln Collier	L
Chains	Laurie Halse Anderson	L
A Christmas Carol	Charles Dickens	L
Out of the Dust	Karen Hesse	L
Freak the Mighty	Rodman Philbrick	L
Divergent	Veronica Roth	L
The Legend of Sleepy Hollow	Washington Irving	L
Chasing Lincoln's Killer	James Swanson	I
The Diary of Anne Frank	Anne Frank	I
Phineas Gage: A Gruesome but True Story about Brain Science	John Fleischman	I
Harriet Tubman: Conductor on the Underground Railroad	Ann Petry	I

Grade 8

Title	Author	Text Type
Across Five Aprils	Irene Hunt	L
Fahrenheit 451	Ray Bradbury	L
The House on Mango Street	Sandra Cisneros	L
Code Talkers	Joseph Bruchac	L
Gathering Blue	Lois Lowry	L
Monster	Walter Dean Myers	L
Nothing But the Truth	Avi	L
Anthem	Ayn Rand	L
Good Old Boy	Willie Morris	L
A Tree Grows in Brooklyn	Betty Smith	L
The Hobbit	JRR Tolkien	L
The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde	Robert Louis Stevenson	L
The Great Fire	Jim Murphy	I
Outliers	Malcolm Gladwell	I
The Smart Aleck's Guide to American History	Adam Selzer	I



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Freakonomics: A Rogue Economist Explores the Hidden Side of Everything	Steven D. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner	I
The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Rebecca Skloot	I
Stiff: The Curious Lives of Human Cadavers	Mary Roach	I
Freedom Walkers	Russell Freedman	I
The Good, the Bad, and the Barbie: A Doll's History and Her Impact on Us	Tanya Lee Stone	I
The Lost Art of the Great Speech One: How to Write One-How to Deliver It	Richard Downs	I
The Blind Side	Michael Lewis	I
The Story of My Life	Helen Keller	I

Grade 9

Title	Author	Text Type
Ethan Frome	Edith Wharton	L
To Kill a Mockingbird	Harper Lee	L
Animal Farm	George Orwell	L
The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn	Mark Twain	L
Romeo and Juliet	William Shakespeare	L
Mythology	Edith Hamilton	L
Lord of the Flies	William Golding	L
Odyssey	Homer	L
Why We Can't Wait	Martin Luther King, Jr.	I
Night	Elie Wiesel	I
Farewell to Manzanar	Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston and James D. Houston	I

Grade 10

Title	Author	Text Type
A Separate Peace	John Knowles	L
Julius Caesar	William Shakespeare	L
Their Eyes Were Watching God	Zora Neale Hurston	L
The Book Thief	Markus Zusak	L
Catcher in the Rye	JD Salinger	L
The Jungle	Upton Sinclair	L
The Secret Life of Bees	Sue Monk Kidd	L
The Hot Zone	Richard Preston	L
Antigone	Sophocles	L



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Grade 11

Title	Author	Text Type
The Crucible	Arthur Miller	L
Of Mice and Men	John Steinbeck	L
The Great Gatsby	F. Scott Fitzgerald	L
A Raisin in the Sun	Lorraine Hansberry	L
A Lesson Before Dying	Ernest Gaines	L
Hamlet	William Shakespeare	L
The Scarlet Letter	Nathaniel Hawthorne	L
The Awakening	Kate Chopin	L
House Made of Dawn	N. Scott Momaday	L
No Country for Old Men	Cormac McCarthy	L
Fences	August Wilson	L
A Doll's House	Henrik Ibsen	L
I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings	Maya Angelo	I
In Cold Blood	Truman Capote	I
The Tipping Point	Malcolm Gladwell	I

Grade 12

Title	Author	Text Type
The Runaway Jury	John Grisham	L
Heart of Darkness	Joseph Conrad	L
The Tempest	William Shakespeare	L
Beloved	Toni Morrison	L
Life of Pi	Yann Martel	L
Beowulf	Various	L
Candide	Voltaire	L
Mrs. Dalloway	Virginia Woolf	L
Things Fall Apart	Chinua Achebe	L
King Lear	William Shakespeare	L
Silas Marner	George Eliot	L
Tess of the d'Urbervilles	Thomas Hardy	L
Jane Eyre	Charlotte Bronte	L
Pride and Prejudice	Jane Austin	L
The Power of One	Bryce Courtenay	L
Frankenstein	Mary Shelley	L



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The Canterbury Tales	Geoffrey Chaucer	L
The Metamorphosis	Franz Kafka	L
Othello	William Shakespeare	L
The Importance of Being Ernest	Oscar Wilde	L
Pygmalion	George Bernard Shaw	L
Wuthering Heights	Emily Bronte	L
Walden	Henry David Thoreau	I

*Some texts may be used in multiple grade levels, depending on reader and task considerations.