

Lexile Measure

I thought it would be helpful to define a Lexile for you. A Lexile measure is defined as "the numeric representation of an individual's reading ability or a text's readability (or difficulty), followed by an "L" (Lexile)". There are two types of Lexile measures: Lexile reader measures and Lexile text measures. A Lexile reader measure typically is obtained when an individual completes a reading comprehension test. Once a field study has been performed to link Lexile Framework with the test, the individual's reading score can be reported as a Lexile measure. The Lexile text measure is used to rate a text based on its level of difficulty. (Information obtained from Wikipedia.org).

At West Side we use a computerized program to obtain a student's Lexile score. The program has students read a piece of text and then asks a variety of questions based on the reading. The difficulty of the passages increase as the students successfully answer questions. Please be aware that a Lexile assessment allows us to gauge a student's comprehension of text at a given level, but it does not account for his or her fluency or his or her word accuracy. Therefore, we couple the results of a Lexile test with a running record assessment so we can get a clear picture of a reader's abilities. The advantage of having a Lexile level is that many books are leveled with the same system, so students can easily find books that are a "good fit" for their reading ranges. (There are websites that can be accessed so that families, and teachers, can find the Lexile levels of hundreds of thousands of books).