

Passages

Passages consists of a series of leveled reading passages beginning at the fifth-grade independent reading level (500s, RFL 5.2-5.9) and moving through the twelfth-grade reading level (1200s, RFL 12.0-12.5). As students develop reading competencies through their prescribed tutorial lessons, they develop comprehension skills with progressively complex text through Passages. Passages activities should be assigned as an ongoing supplement to each student's Study Schedule as soon as students complete Standard II, Comprehension Skills.

It is preferable to use standardized test results that indicate students' independent reading levels to place students at the appropriate level in Passages. When using standardized test results for placement into Passages, it is best to use conservative judgment. For example, if a student's standardized test score indicates a reading level of "6.8 Grade Equivalent", the student should begin with Passage 610 (RFL 5.9) instead of Passage 650 (RFL 6.8).

If standardized test results are not available, you may use the following procedure:

Place students in Passages 500. Use the provided grade level progression, along with recommended timed reading speeds, to find the appropriate placement for the student through the first few exercises. For example, students reading well above the recommended silent reading speed of 173 words per minute on Passage 510, and scoring 90-100% on the Passage Test, should be assigned to Passage 610. Repeat this process until students are near the recommended range for reading speed at that level, or until students fail to complete a Passage Test with 90-100% accuracy – students should complete all sequential passages at this level, as well as all remaining passages at subsequent levels.

On each student's Study Schedule, you may choose to record where specific passages are used in conjunction with prescribed lessons. Reading times, Passage Test scores, and comments for Passages activities should be recorded on the Passages Reading Record insert for the Reading Study Schedule.

Use the reading level chart provided on the following page to make informed decisions about Passages assignments.¹ The chart gives recommended silent reading rates by grade level. These reading rates are guidelines only and should be used in conjunction with knowledge of each student's needs and functional level, either from the student's work in the Reading System or from other standardized measures. They will provide progressively complex text, which can be used to develop comprehension skills with text similar to that found on high-stakes HSE tests and in introductory college courses.

¹ Flesch-Kincaid Reading Grade Level is one of the objective measures of text complexity recognized by College and Career Readiness Standards.

The following table includes recommended silent reading rates (reading fluency)², word counts, and Flesch-Kincaid Reading Grade Level measures for each of the Reading System Passages.

Passage Number	Flesch-Kincaid Reading Grade Level	Total Words	Silent Reading Rates	Recommended Reading Time
510	5.2	242	173 WPM	1:30
520	5.2	424	173 WPM	2:30
530	5.5	353	173 WPM	2:15
540	5.7	344	173 WPM	2:15
550	5.9	341	173 WPM	2:15
610	5.9	320	185 WPM	1:45
620	6.2	312	185 WPM	1:45
630	6.5	411	185 WPM	2:15
640	6.6	453	185 WPM	2:30
650	6.8	558	185 WPM	3:15
710	7	341	195 WPM	1:45
720	7.3	358	195 WPM	2:00
730	7.4	445	195 WPM	2:15
740	7.6	493	195 WPM	2:45
750	7.8	539	195 WPM	3:00
810	8	418	204 WPM	2:15
820	8.3	413	204 WPM	2:15
830	8.6	346	204 WPM	1:45
840	8.7	380	204 WPM	2:00
850	8.8	410	204 WPM	2:15
910	9	523	214 WPM	2:45
920	9.1	485	214 WPM	2:30
930	9.3	508	214 WPM	2:30
940	9.6	471	214 WPM	2:15
950	9.8	492	214 WPM	2:30
1010	10.1	533	224 WPM	2:30
1020	10.2	767	224 WPM	3:30
1030	10.4	401	224 WPM	2:00
1040	10.5	527	224 WPM	2:30
1050	10.7	669	224 WPM	3:00
1110	10.9	543	237 WPM	2:30
1120	11.1	821	237 WPM	3:30
1130	11.5	405	237 WPM	1:45
1140	11.7	942	237 WPM	4:00
1150	11.8	757	237 WPM	3:15
1210	12.1	858	250 WPM	3:30
1220	12.2	539	250 WPM	2:15
1230	12.3	643	250 WPM	2:45
1240	12.5	725	250 WPM	3:00
1250	12.5	1,295	250 WPM	5:15

²Recommended silent reading rates are referenced from *The Reading Teacher*, Hasbrouck, J., & Tindal, G. A. (2006)