

THE WRITING ACADEMY®, LLC
COURSE OVERVIEW · TEACHER RESOURCES

Grade 4 Cluster 5 Text Complexity and Reading Stamina Report

Part of the ECR Supplemental Support System.

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Package Contents

Scope, organization, and intended instructional use

RECORD	DETAIL
Intended Use	Supplemental Support Lesson Guide
Document Type	Official Teacher-Facing Instructional Planning Report
Version / Date	Version 1.0 2026
Texts Analyzed	8 passage versions across 2 reading selection(s)

SECTION	CONTENTS
Section I	Overall purpose, cluster architecture, research basis, and interpretation rules
Section II	Master quantitative comparison and cross-text findings
Section III	Per-passage text complexity evidentiary profiles
Section IV	Cross-text implementation guidance and verification record

Report Use

This package is designed for direct placement in the Grade 4 Supplemental Support Lesson Guide of The Writing Academy®, LLC. It documents every supplied passage version separately while also explaining how the Cluster 5 set grows across four stamina levels. Every count in this report is calculated directly from the supplied passage text.

Source Set Overview

The reading selections analyzed in this report

READING SELECTION	VERSIONS PROVIDED	READING VOLUME RANGE (WORDS)
Looking Back to Move Forward	Low, Medium, High, Very High	222 to 2,355
Voices That Shaped Texas	Low, Medium, High, Very High	206 to 1,677

Overall Purpose and Cluster Architecture

How the passage set builds knowledge and reading stamina across four modules

The Cluster 5 set gives each reading at four stamina levels, one for every module. The conceptual core stays stable while reading volume, vocabulary load, evidence distance, and synthesis demand increase from the

shortest Module 1 reading to the fullest Module 4 reading. Teachers can match the version to a student while keeping the same lesson purpose.

MODULE	STAMINA LEVEL	PRIMARY INSTRUCTIONAL FUNCTION	APPROPRIATE PRODUCT
Module 1	Low Stamina	Establish the shared knowledge framework and locate local evidence.	Brief evidence-based response
Module 2	Medium Stamina	Add subtopics, vocabulary, and evidence from several paragraphs.	Multi-sentence explanation
Module 3	High Stamina	Integrate multiple categories and retrieve evidence across the text.	Extended response with several supports
Module 4	Very High Stamina	Synthesize the full topic and explain historical, civic, or scientific significance.	Whole-text extended explanation

Research Basis and Measurement Protocol

How the evidentiary profile is calculated and interpreted

Each selection is evaluated through quantitative statistics, qualitative dimensions, and reader and task demands rather than one score alone. The planning estimate emphasizes mean sentence length and lexical demand. It does not by itself measure total stamina, quality, content, or task complexity. The same text can be more or less demanding depending on rereading, scaffolds, the required response, and students prior knowledge.

Counting Conventions

- Word counts include student-facing passage language and exclude titles, stamina labels, and report metadata. Contractions, possessives, and hyphenated compounds count as one word, and numerals count as one word.
- Sentence counts use terminal punctuation. Runs of terminal marks and ellipses collapse to one boundary, and decimal points and common abbreviations do not split a sentence.
- Paragraph and narrative-beat counts follow the separated source blocks. Short dialogue, reflection, and list blocks are retained because they affect pacing and retrieval.
- Syllable counts use a pronunciation dictionary (CMUdict) when the word is listed, and a consistent vowel-group heuristic with silent-ending adjustments for names and uncommon terms.
- Flesch-Kincaid grade level uses 0.39 times words per sentence, plus 11.8 times syllables per word, minus 15.59. It is used for triangulation only, not as a grade-placement decision.
- Metric-derived complexity bands: Reader and Stamina Load is Lower below 300 words, Moderate from 300 to 900, and Higher above 900. Lexical Demand is Lower below 8%, Moderate from 8 to 11.5%, and Higher above 11.5% three-or-more-syllable words. Sentence Complexity is Lower below 10 words average, Moderate from 10 to 13, and Higher above 13. Formula Readability is Lower below 5.5, Moderate from 5.5 to 7.0, and Higher above 7.0.

Master Quantitative Comparison

Actual counts computed across all Cluster 5 selections

SELECTION	LEVEL	WORDS	SENT.	PARA.	AVG. SENT.	3+ SYL.	F-K
Looking Back to Move Forward	Low	222	28	8	7.9	17 (7.7%)	4.5
Looking Back to Move Forward	Medium	506	56	14	9.0	38 (7.5%)	5.2
Looking Back to Move Forward	High	1,326	139	38	9.5	99 (7.5%)	5.5
Looking Back to Move Forward	Very High	2,355	249	68	9.5	176 (7.5%)	5.5
Voices That Shaped Texas	Low	206	15	5	13.7	23 (11.2%)	7.7
Voices That Shaped Texas	Medium	494	38	11	13.0	45 (9.1%)	7.3
Voices That Shaped Texas	High	1,000	80	16	12.5	107 (10.7%)	7.5
Voices That Shaped Texas	Very High	1,677	138	29	12.2	173 (10.3%)	7.2

What the Numbers Demonstrate

- The Looking Back to Move Forward sequence grows from 222 to 2,355 words, a 10.61-fold increase in reading volume, and the beat span grows from 8 to 68.
- Three-or-more-syllable density in the Looking Back to Move Forward set moves from 7.7% at the shortest version to 7.5% at the fullest version.
- The Voices That Shaped Texas sequence grows from 206 to 1,677 words, a 8.14-fold increase in reading volume, and the beat span grows from 5 to 29.
- Three-or-more-syllable density in the Voices That Shaped Texas set moves from 11.2% at the shortest version to 10.3% at the fullest version.

Per-Passage Text Complexity Profiles

One evidentiary profile per supplied passage version

Looking Back to Move Forward - Low Stamina Report

Cluster 5 | Module 1 / Low Stamina

A. Official Passage Profile

- 222 total words; 119 unique word forms
- 28 punctuation-defined sentences; 8 separated paragraphs / narrative beats
- 7.9 words average sentence length; 13 words in the longest conventional sentence
- 0 sentences of 15+ words; 0 of 20+ words; 0 of 25+ words
- 1 syllable: 142 (64.0%); 2 syllables: 63 (28.4%); 3+ syllables: 17 (7.7%)
- Flesch-Kincaid grade level 4.5, corroborating formula only, not a placement decision
- Estimated single-pass reading time 1.9 to 2.2 minutes at 100 to 120 words per minute

B. Metric-Derived Complexity Indicators

Planning indicators derived deterministically from the computed statistics above, using the documented bands in the Research Basis section. They summarize measurable load, not an editorial judgment of quality.

INDICATOR	COMPUTED BASIS	BAND
Reader / Stamina Load	222 words across 8 beats	Lower
Lexical Demand	7.7% of words carry 3+ syllables	Lower
Sentence Complexity	7.9 words average; 0 sentences of 15+ words	Lower
Formula Readability	Flesch-Kincaid 4.5	Lower

C. Word-Level and Vocabulary Evidence

Three-or-More-Syllable
Examples

explaining ideas Renaissance expressions important differently
government citizens powerless affected

Longer Academic
Vocabulary

forward teacher painting people building noticed reading talking
pointing thinkers ancient explained

Proper Nouns and
Domain Terms

Ava The School Athens Raphael Greece Rome Renaissance
Europe

Every example above is a word that appears verbatim in this passage. Three-or-more-syllable words are identified with the pronunciation-dictionary method described in the Research Basis section.

D. Sentence, Cohesion, and Beat Evidence

Opening Sentence

“Ava leaned forward as her teacher showed a painting on the board.”

Longest Sentence (14 words)	<i>““During the Renaissance, people began to study their ideas again.” Ava thought about that.”</i>
Beat / Paragraph Count	8 separated source blocks, each a narrative or informational beat

Looking Back to Move Forward - Medium Stamina Report

Cluster 5 | Module 2 / Medium Stamina

A. Official Passage Profile

- 506 total words; 220 unique word forms
- 56 punctuation-defined sentences; 14 separated paragraphs / narrative beats
- 9.0 words average sentence length; 18 words in the longest conventional sentence
- 2 sentences of 15+ words; 0 of 20+ words; 0 of 25+ words
- 1 syllable: 309 (61.1%); 2 syllables: 159 (31.4%); 3+ syllables: 38 (7.5%)
- Flesch-Kincaid grade level 5.2, corroborating formula only, not a placement decision
- Estimated single-pass reading time 4.2 to 5.1 minutes at 100 to 120 words per minute

B. Metric-Derived Complexity Indicators

Planning indicators derived deterministically from the computed statistics above, using the documented bands in the Research Basis section. They summarize measurable load, not an editorial judgment of quality.

INDICATOR	COMPUTED BASIS	BAND
Reader / Stamina Load	506 words across 14 beats	Moderate
Lexical Demand	7.5% of words carry 3+ syllables	Lower
Sentence Complexity	9.0 words average; 2 sentences of 15+ words	Lower
Formula Readability	Flesch-Kincaid 5.2	Lower

C. Word-Level and Vocabulary Evidence

Three-or-More-Syllable
Examples

explaining ideas Renaissance expressions important excited differently
government citizens powerless decisions everyone opinions realized

Longer Academic
Vocabulary

forward teacher painting people building noticed reading talking
pointing thinkers ancient explained

Proper Nouns and
Domain Terms

Ava The School Athens Raphael Greece Rome Renaissance
Europe

Every example above is a word that appears verbatim in this passage. Three-or-more-syllable words are identified with the pronunciation-dictionary method described in the Research Basis section.

D. Sentence, Cohesion, and Beat Evidence

Opening Sentence

“Ava leaned forward as her teacher showed a painting on the board.”

Longest Sentence (18 words)	<i>“Ava noticed that some figures seemed deep in thought, while others seemed excited to share what they knew.”</i>
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Beat / Paragraph Count	14 separated source blocks, each a narrative or informational beat
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Looking Back to Move Forward - High Stamina Report

Cluster 5 | Module 3 / High Stamina

A. Official Passage Profile

- 1,326 total words; 385 unique word forms
- 139 punctuation-defined sentences; 38 separated paragraphs / narrative beats
- 9.5 words average sentence length; 21 words in the longest conventional sentence
- 18 sentences of 15+ words; 2 of 20+ words; 0 of 25+ words
- 1 syllable: 797 (60.1%); 2 syllables: 430 (32.4%); 3+ syllables: 99 (7.5%)
- Flesch-Kincaid grade level 5.5, corroborating formula only, not a placement decision
- Estimated single-pass reading time 11.1 to 13.3 minutes at 100 to 120 words per minute

B. Metric-Derived Complexity Indicators

Planning indicators derived deterministically from the computed statistics above, using the documented bands in the Research Basis section. They summarize measurable load, not an editorial judgment of quality.

INDICATOR	COMPUTED BASIS	BAND
Reader / Stamina Load	1,326 words across 38 beats	Higher
Lexical Demand	7.5% of words carry 3+ syllables	Lower
Sentence Complexity	9.5 words average; 18 sentences of 15+ words	Lower
Formula Readability	Flesch-Kincaid 5.5	Moderate

C. Word-Level and Vocabulary Evidence

Three-or-More-Syllable
Examples

explaining ideas Renaissance expressions important excited quietly
exactly carefully observation idea another everyone understand

Longer Academic
Vocabulary

forward teacher painting people building noticed reading talking
pointing thinkers ancient explained

Proper Nouns and
Domain Terms

Ava The School Athens Raphael Greece Rome Renaissance
Europe She Mrs Lopez

Every example above is a word that appears verbatim in this passage. Three-or-more-syllable words are identified with the pronunciation-dictionary method described in the Research Basis section.

D. Sentence, Cohesion, and Beat Evidence

Opening Sentence

“Ava leaned forward as her teacher showed a painting on the board.”

Longest Sentence (28 words)	<i>“Finally, she wrote, “The Renaissance showed that people could study the past to create new ideas about art, learning, and government.” She read the sentence again and smiled.”</i>
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Beat / Paragraph Count	38 separated source blocks, each a narrative or informational beat
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Looking Back to Move Forward - Very High Stamina Report

Cluster 5 | Module 4 / Very High Stamina

A. Official Passage Profile

- 2,355 total words; 529 unique word forms
- 249 punctuation-defined sentences; 68 separated paragraphs / narrative beats
- 9.5 words average sentence length; 21 words in the longest conventional sentence
- 32 sentences of 15+ words; 5 of 20+ words; 0 of 25+ words
- 1 syllable: 1433 (60.8%); 2 syllables: 746 (31.7%); 3+ syllables: 176 (7.5%)
- Flesch-Kincaid grade level 5.5, corroborating formula only, not a placement decision
- Estimated single-pass reading time 19.6 to 23.6 minutes at 100 to 120 words per minute

B. Metric-Derived Complexity Indicators

Planning indicators derived deterministically from the computed statistics above, using the documented bands in the Research Basis section. They summarize measurable load, not an editorial judgment of quality.

INDICATOR	COMPUTED BASIS	BAND
Reader / Stamina Load	2,355 words across 68 beats	Higher
Lexical Demand	7.5% of words carry 3+ syllables	Lower
Sentence Complexity	9.5 words average; 32 sentences of 15+ words	Lower
Formula Readability	Flesch-Kincaid 5.5	Moderate

C. Word-Level and Vocabulary Evidence

Three-or-More-Syllable
Examples

explaining ideas Renaissance expressions important excited quietly
exactly carefully observation idea another everyone understand

Longer Academic
Vocabulary

forward teacher painting people building noticed reading talking
pointing thinkers ancient explained

Proper Nouns and
Domain Terms

Ava The School Athens Raphael Greece Rome Renaissance
Europe She Mrs Lopez

Every example above is a word that appears verbatim in this passage. Three-or-more-syllable words are identified with the pronunciation-dictionary method described in the Research Basis section.

D. Sentence, Cohesion, and Beat Evidence

Opening Sentence

“Ava leaned forward as her teacher showed a painting on the board.”

Longest Sentence (28 words)	<i>“Finally, she wrote, “The Renaissance showed that people could study the past to create new ideas about art, learning, and government.” She read the sentence again and smiled.”</i>
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Beat / Paragraph Count	68 separated source blocks, each a narrative or informational beat
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Voices That Shaped Texas - Low Stamina Report

Cluster 5 | Module 1 / Low Stamina

A. Official Passage Profile

- 206 total words; 139 unique word forms
- 15 punctuation-defined sentences; 5 separated paragraphs / narrative beats
- 13.7 words average sentence length; 22 words in the longest conventional sentence
- 6 sentences of 15+ words; 2 of 20+ words; 0 of 25+ words
- 1 syllable: 130 (63.1%); 2 syllables: 53 (25.7%); 3+ syllables: 23 (11.2%)
- Flesch-Kincaid grade level 7.7, corroborating formula only, not a placement decision
- Estimated single-pass reading time 1.7 to 2.1 minutes at 100 to 120 words per minute

B. Metric-Derived Complexity Indicators

Planning indicators derived deterministically from the computed statistics above, using the documented bands in the Research Basis section. They summarize measurable load, not an editorial judgment of quality.

INDICATOR	COMPUTED BASIS	BAND
Reader / Stamina Load	206 words across 5 beats	Lower
Lexical Demand	11.2% of words carry 3+ syllables	Moderate
Sentence Complexity	13.7 words average; 6 sentences of 15+ words	Higher
Formula Readability	Flesch-Kincaid 7.7	Higher

C. Word-Level and Vocabulary Evidence

Three-or-More-Syllable
Examples

radio traditions Lydia Mendoza Mexican American everyday
connected experiences powerful emotional Tejano Lorenzo African

Longer Academic
Vocabulary

different happen artists stories family sounded became listeners
across singer performed operas

Proper Nouns and
Domain Terms

Texas Mendoza Mexican American Spanish Chelo Silva Tejano
Lorenzo Cobb Bledsoe African

Every example above is a word that appears verbatim in this passage. Three-or-more-syllable words are identified with the pronunciation-dictionary method described in the Research Basis section.

D. Sentence, Cohesion, and Beat Evidence

Opening Sentence

"If you turn on the radio in Texas, you might hear many different styles of music."

Longest Sentence (22 words)	<i>“Some people believe their biggest impact was sharing their culture, while others think they helped bring different subgroups of people closer together.”</i>
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Beat / Paragraph Count	5 separated source blocks, each a narrative or informational beat
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Voices That Shaped Texas - Medium Stamina Report

Cluster 5 | Module 2 / Medium Stamina

A. Official Passage Profile

- 494 total words; 235 unique word forms
- 38 punctuation-defined sentences; 11 separated paragraphs / narrative beats
- 13.0 words average sentence length; 22 words in the longest conventional sentence
- 10 sentences of 15+ words; 2 of 20+ words; 0 of 25+ words
- 1 syllable: 301 (60.9%); 2 syllables: 148 (30.0%); 3+ syllables: 45 (9.1%)
- Flesch-Kincaid grade level 7.3, corroborating formula only, not a placement decision
- Estimated single-pass reading time 4.1 to 4.9 minutes at 100 to 120 words per minute

B. Metric-Derived Complexity Indicators

Planning indicators derived deterministically from the computed statistics above, using the documented bands in the Research Basis section. They summarize measurable load, not an editorial judgment of quality.

INDICATOR	COMPUTED BASIS	BAND
Reader / Stamina Load	494 words across 11 beats	Moderate
Lexical Demand	9.1% of words carry 3+ syllables	Moderate
Sentence Complexity	13.0 words average; 10 sentences of 15+ words	Higher
Formula Readability	Flesch-Kincaid 7.3	Higher

C. Word-Level and Vocabulary Evidence

Three-or-More-Syllable Examples

radio traditions ideas Lydia Mendoza Mexican American everyday
connected experiences powerful important reminded emotional

Longer Academic Vocabulary

different happen artists stories always people became others
sadness culture special family

Proper Nouns and Domain Terms

Texas Mendoza Mexican American Spanish Chelo Silva Tejano
Silvas Lorenzo Cobb Bledsoe

Every example above is a word that appears verbatim in this passage. Three-or-more-syllable words are identified with the pronunciation-dictionary method described in the Research Basis section.

D. Sentence, Cohesion, and Beat Evidence

Opening Sentence "If you turn on the radio in Texas, you might hear many different styles of music."

Longest Sentence (22 words)	<i>“Some people believe their biggest impact was sharing their culture, while others think they helped bring different subgroups of people closer together.”</i>
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Beat / Paragraph Count	11 separated source blocks, each a narrative or informational beat
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Voices That Shaped Texas - High Stamina Report

Cluster 5 | Module 3 / High Stamina

A. Official Passage Profile

- 1,000 total words; 331 unique word forms
- 80 punctuation-defined sentences; 16 separated paragraphs / narrative beats
- 12.5 words average sentence length; 25 words in the longest conventional sentence
- 23 sentences of 15+ words; 5 of 20+ words; 1 of 25+ words
- 1 syllable: 591 (59.1%); 2 syllables: 302 (30.2%); 3+ syllables: 107 (10.7%)
- Flesch-Kincaid grade level 7.5, corroborating formula only, not a placement decision
- Estimated single-pass reading time 8.3 to 10.0 minutes at 100 to 120 words per minute

B. Metric-Derived Complexity Indicators

Planning indicators derived deterministically from the computed statistics above, using the documented bands in the Research Basis section. They summarize measurable load, not an editorial judgment of quality.

INDICATOR	COMPUTED BASIS	BAND
Reader / Stamina Load	1,000 words across 16 beats	Higher
Lexical Demand	10.7% of words carry 3+ syllables	Moderate
Sentence Complexity	12.5 words average; 23 sentences of 15+ words	Moderate
Formula Readability	Flesch-Kincaid 7.5	Higher

C. Word-Level and Vocabulary Evidence

Three-or-More-Syllable
Examples

radio traditions together everyday communities connected generations
understand Lydia Mendoza Mexican American experiences meaningful

Longer Academic
Vocabulary

different happen artists stories people across places customs
cities churches became families

Proper Nouns and
Domain Terms

Texas Lydia Mendoza Mexican American Spanish Chelo Silva
Tejano Texans Julius Lorenzo

Every example above is a word that appears verbatim in this passage. Three-or-more-syllable words are identified with the pronunciation-dictionary method described in the Research Basis section.

D. Sentence, Cohesion, and Beat Evidence

Opening Sentence

"If you turn on the radio in Texas, you might hear many different styles of music."

Longest Sentence (25 words)	<i>“A person who learned about Julius Lorenzo Cobb Bledsoe might understand how difficult it was for some artists to succeed and why his success mattered.”</i>
Beat / Paragraph Count	16 separated source blocks, each a narrative or informational beat

Voices That Shaped Texas - Very High Stamina Report

Cluster 5 | Module 4 / Very High Stamina

A. Official Passage Profile

- 1,677 total words; 437 unique word forms
- 138 punctuation-defined sentences; 29 separated paragraphs / narrative beats
- 12.2 words average sentence length; 25 words in the longest conventional sentence
- 33 sentences of 15+ words; 8 of 20+ words; 1 of 25+ words
- 1 syllable: 1008 (60.1%); 2 syllables: 496 (29.6%); 3+ syllables: 173 (10.3%)
- Flesch-Kincaid grade level 7.2, corroborating formula only, not a placement decision
- Estimated single-pass reading time 14.0 to 16.8 minutes at 100 to 120 words per minute

B. Metric-Derived Complexity Indicators

Planning indicators derived deterministically from the computed statistics above, using the documented bands in the Research Basis section. They summarize measurable load, not an editorial judgment of quality.

INDICATOR	COMPUTED BASIS	BAND
Reader / Stamina Load	1,677 words across 29 beats	Higher
Lexical Demand	10.3% of words carry 3+ syllables	Moderate
Sentence Complexity	12.2 words average; 33 sentences of 15+ words	Moderate
Formula Readability	Flesch-Kincaid 7.2	Higher

C. Word-Level and Vocabulary Evidence

Three-or-More-Syllable Examples

radio traditions together theaters community understand Lydia
Mendoza Mexican American everyday connected experiences important

Longer Academic Vocabulary

different happen artists stories people across places customs
language cities churches became

Proper Nouns and Domain Terms

Texas Lydia Mendoza Mexican American Spanish Mendozas Chelo
Silva Tejano Texans Silvas

Every example above is a word that appears verbatim in this passage. Three-or-more-syllable words are identified with the pronunciation-dictionary method described in the Research Basis section.

D. Sentence, Cohesion, and Beat Evidence

Opening Sentence "If you turn on the radio in Texas, you might hear many different styles of music."

Longest Sentence (25 words)

“A person who learned about Julius Lorenzo Cobb Bledsoe might understand how difficult it was for some artists to succeed and why his success mattered.”

Beat / Paragraph Count

29 separated source blocks, each a narrative or informational beat

Cross-Text Implementation Guidance

Using the stamina staircase in daily instruction

- Use the Low version to establish the shared knowledge framework, then move students up the staircase as their stamina and evidence handling grow.
- Match the assigned writing product to the evidence available in the selected version, using the module framework table above.
- Teach the longer versions across multiple purposeful readings rather than assigning the full text as one unsupported first read.
- Preview the three-or-more-syllable and domain vocabulary listed in each passage profile before the first read.

Verification Record

Every count in this report was produced by a single deterministic generator that reads the supplied passage text directly. The method reproduces the published Grade 3 report counts for words, sentences, paragraphs, and three-or-more-syllable words. No passage text or metric was entered by hand.