

THE WRITING ACADEMY®, LLC
COURSE OVERVIEW · TEACHER RESOURCES

Grade 4 Cluster 7 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 7 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)
The Roads Between Us	Low, Medium, High, Very High	122 to 555
What We Carry Forward	Low, Medium, High, Very High	137 to 799

Overall Purpose and Cluster Architecture

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

The Cluster 7 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 7 selections

SELECTION	LEVEL	WORDS	SENT.	PARA.	AVG. SENT.	3+ SYL.	F-K
The Roads Between Us	Low	122	10	5	12.2	1 (0.8%)	4.6
The Roads Between Us	Medium	222	18	9	12.3	7 (3.2%)	4.6

SELECTION	LEVEL	WORDS	SENT.	PARA.	AVG. SENT.	3+ SYL.	F-K
The Roads Between Us	High	367	30	15	12.2	15 (4.1%)	4.7
The Roads Between Us	Very High	555	46	23	12.1	29 (5.2%)	5.1
What We Carry Forward	Low	137	10	5	13.7	3 (2.2%)	3.7
What We Carry Forward	Medium	250	19	10	13.2	12 (4.8%)	5.0
What We Carry Forward	High	460	38	19	12.1	22 (4.8%)	4.8
What We Carry Forward	Very High	799	69	33	11.6	45 (5.6%)	4.8

What the Numbers Demonstrate

- The The Roads Between Us sequence grows from 122 to 555 words, a 4.55-fold increase in reading volume, and the beat span grows from 5 to 23.
- Three-or-more-syllable density in the The Roads Between Us set moves from 0.8% at the shortest version to 5.2% at the fullest version.
- The What We Carry Forward sequence grows from 137 to 799 words, a 5.83-fold increase in reading volume, and the beat span grows from 5 to 33.
- Three-or-more-syllable density in the What We Carry Forward set moves from 2.2% at the shortest version to 5.6% at the fullest version.

Per-Passage Text Complexity Profiles

One evidentiary profile per supplied passage version

The Roads Between Us - Low Stamina Report

Cluster 7 | Module 1 / Low Stamina

A. Official Passage Profile

- 122 total words; 93 unique word forms
- 10 punctuation-defined sentences; 5 separated paragraphs / narrative beats
- 12.2 words average sentence length; 14 words in the longest conventional sentence
- 0 sentences of 15+ words; 0 of 20+ words; 0 of 25+ words
- 1 syllable: 85 (69.7%); 2 syllables: 36 (29.5%); 3+ syllables: 1 (0.8%)
- Flesch-Kincaid grade level 4.6, corroborating formula only, not a placement decision
- Estimated single-pass reading time 1.0 to 1.2 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	122 words across 5 beats	Lower
Lexical Demand	0.8% of words carry 3+ syllables	Lower
Sentence Complexity	12.2 words average; 0 sentences of 15+ words	Moderate
Formula Readability	Flesch-Kincaid 4.6	Lower

C. Word-Level and Vocabulary Evidence

Three-or-More-Syllable
Examples

pottery

Longer Academic
Vocabulary

pathway

traveler

watches

listens

basket

travel

rivers

canoes

inside

friendships

desert

camels

Proper Nouns and
Domain Terms

A

Can

With

And

Beneath

Through

It

New

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

"A river bends, a pathway turns, A traveler watches, listens, learns."

Longest Sentence (14
words)

"A road is more than dirt or stone; It reaches farther than we've known."

Beat / Paragraph Count	5 separated source blocks, each a narrative or informational beat
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The Roads Between Us - Medium Stamina Report

Cluster 7 | Module 2 / Medium Stamina

A. Official Passage Profile

- 222 total words; 149 unique word forms
- 18 punctuation-defined sentences; 9 separated paragraphs / narrative beats
- 12.3 words average sentence length; 16 words in the longest conventional sentence
- 2 sentences of 15+ words; 0 of 20+ words; 0 of 25+ words
- 1 syllable: 162 (73.0%); 2 syllables: 53 (23.9%); 3+ syllables: 7 (3.2%)
- Flesch-Kincaid grade level 4.6, 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 9 beats	Lower
Lexical Demand	3.2% of words carry 3+ syllables	Lower
Sentence Complexity	12.3 words average; 2 sentences of 15+ words	Moderate
Formula Readability	Flesch-Kincaid 4.6	Lower

C. Word-Level and Vocabulary Evidence

Three-or-More-Syllable
Examples

riverways visitor Sahara difficult Connection communities Ideas

Longer Academic
Vocabulary

pathway traveler watches listens basket travel traveled something
different carried knowledge camels

Proper Nouns and
Domain Terms

A Can Caddo To Could But Sahara On While Mali's From
And

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

"A river bends, a pathway turns, A traveler watches, listens, learns."

Longest Sentence (16
words)

"A pot, a tool, some food to share Could build a bond from here to there."

Beat / Paragraph Count	9 separated source blocks, each a narrative or informational beat
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The Roads Between Us - High Stamina Report

Cluster 7 | Module 3 / High Stamina

A. Official Passage Profile

- 367 total words; 225 unique word forms
- 30 punctuation-defined sentences; 15 separated paragraphs / narrative beats
- 12.2 words average sentence length; 17 words in the longest conventional sentence
- 1 sentences of 15+ words; 0 of 20+ words; 0 of 25+ words
- 1 syllable: 268 (73.0%); 2 syllables: 84 (22.9%); 3+ syllables: 15 (4.1%)
- Flesch-Kincaid grade level 4.7, corroborating formula only, not a placement decision
- Estimated single-pass reading time 3.1 to 3.7 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	367 words across 15 beats	Moderate
Lexical Demand	4.1% of words carry 3+ syllables	Lower
Sentence Complexity	12.2 words average; 1 sentences of 15+ words	Moderate
Formula Readability	Flesch-Kincaid 4.7	Lower

C. Word-Level and Vocabulary Evidence

Three-or-More-Syllable
Examples

pottery carefully neighboring communities Saharas caravans Timbuktu
wherever ideas Atlantic Explorers unfamiliar animals Languages

Longer Academic
Vocabulary

pathway traveler watches listens basket travel highways traveled
followed useful hopeful rivers

Proper Nouns and
Domain Terms

A Can People They With Caddo Their Or Sahara's Great
And Mali's

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

"A river bends, a pathway turns, A traveler watches, listens, learns."

Longest Sentence (17 words)	<i>“For land and power brought conflict too, And lives were changed by what people chose to do.”</i>
Beat / Paragraph Count	15 separated source blocks, each a narrative or informational beat

The Roads Between Us - Very High Stamina Report

Cluster 7 | Module 4 / Very High Stamina

A. Official Passage Profile

- 555 total words; 317 unique word forms
- 46 punctuation-defined sentences; 23 separated paragraphs / narrative beats
- 12.1 words average sentence length; 14 words in the longest conventional sentence
- 0 sentences of 15+ words; 0 of 20+ words; 0 of 25+ words
- 1 syllable: 390 (70.3%); 2 syllables: 136 (24.5%); 3+ syllables: 29 (5.2%)
- Flesch-Kincaid grade level 5.1, corroborating formula only, not a placement decision
- Estimated single-pass reading time 4.6 to 5.5 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	555 words across 23 beats	Moderate
Lexical Demand	5.2% of words carry 3+ syllables	Lower
Sentence Complexity	12.1 words average; 0 sentences of 15+ words	Moderate
Formula Readability	Flesch-Kincaid 5.1	Lower

C. Word-Level and Vocabulary Evidence

Three-or-More-Syllable
Examples

understand waterways carefully Connecting Saharas Caravans difficult
Timbuktu idea Centuries Atlantic societies separated animals

Longer Academic
Vocabulary

pathway traveler watches listens basket travel rivers followed
offered baskets people across

Proper Nouns and
Domain Terms

A Can People And The Caddo Their But Or Connecting
That Might

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

"A river bends, a pathway turns, A traveler watches, listens, learns."

Longest Sentence (14 words)

"They watched the rivers, stars, and land, And followed routes they came to understand."

Beat / Paragraph Count

23 separated source blocks, each a narrative or informational beat

What We Carry Forward - Low Stamina Report

Cluster 7 | Module 1 / Low Stamina

A. Official Passage Profile

- 137 total words; 88 unique word forms
- 10 punctuation-defined sentences; 5 separated paragraphs / narrative beats
- 13.7 words average sentence length; 16 words in the longest conventional sentence
- 1 sentences of 15+ words; 0 of 20+ words; 0 of 25+ words
- 1 syllable: 115 (83.9%); 2 syllables: 19 (13.9%); 3+ syllables: 3 (2.2%)
- Flesch-Kincaid grade level 3.7, corroborating formula only, not a placement decision
- Estimated single-pass reading time 1.1 to 1.4 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	137 words across 5 beats	Lower
Lexical Demand	2.2% of words carry 3+ syllables	Lower
Sentence Complexity	13.7 words average; 1 sentences of 15+ words	Higher
Formula Readability	Flesch-Kincaid 3.7	Lower

C. Word-Level and Vocabulary Evidence

Three-or-More-Syllable
Examples

grandparent remembers ideas

Longer Academic
Vocabulary

written meaning travels family lesson painters writers people
remain travel helpful someday

Proper Nouns and
Domain Terms

A Its New Can Good One May Then

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

"A rule is written, strong and clear, Its meaning travels year to year."

Longest Sentence (16
words)

"We take the past and learn what's true, Then choose what we will say and do."

Beat / Paragraph Count	5 separated source blocks, each a narrative or informational beat
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What We Carry Forward - Medium Stamina Report

Cluster 7 | Module 2 / Medium Stamina

A. Official Passage Profile

- 250 total words; 162 unique word forms
- 19 punctuation-defined sentences; 10 separated paragraphs / narrative beats
- 13.2 words average sentence length; 23 words in the longest conventional sentence
- 3 sentences of 15+ words; 1 of 20+ words; 0 of 25+ words
- 1 syllable: 186 (74.4%); 2 syllables: 52 (20.8%); 3+ syllables: 12 (4.8%)
- Flesch-Kincaid grade level 5.0, corroborating formula only, not a placement decision
- Estimated single-pass reading time 2.1 to 2.5 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	250 words across 10 beats	Lower
Lexical Demand	4.8% of words carry 3+ syllables	Lower
Sentence Complexity	13.2 words average; 3 sentences of 15+ words	Higher
Formula Readability	Flesch-Kincaid 5.0	Lower

C. Word-Level and Vocabulary Evidence

Three-or-More-Syllable
Examples

Runnymede important idea disappear ideas Continued traditions
Renaissance centuries melody generation generations

Longer Academic
Vocabulary

written meaning travels fairer traveling evening morning families
classrooms knowledge thinkers studied

Proper Nouns and
Domain Terms

A Its New Runnymede An Even The Magna Carta Every
Continued Caddo

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

"A rule is written, strong and clear, Its meaning travels year to year."

Longest Sentence (23 words)	<i>“At Runnymede, long years ago, An important idea began to grow: Even a ruler must obey The laws that guide a fairer way.”</i>
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Beat / Paragraph Count	10 separated source blocks, each a narrative or informational beat
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What We Carry Forward - High Stamina Report

Cluster 7 | Module 3 / High Stamina

A. Official Passage Profile

- 460 total words; 276 unique word forms
- 38 punctuation-defined sentences; 19 separated paragraphs / narrative beats
- 12.1 words average sentence length; 14 words in the longest conventional sentence
- 0 sentences of 15+ words; 0 of 20+ words; 0 of 25+ words
- 1 syllable: 335 (72.8%); 2 syllables: 103 (22.4%); 3+ syllables: 22 (4.8%)
- Flesch-Kincaid grade level 4.8, corroborating formula only, not a placement decision
- Estimated single-pass reading time 3.8 to 4.6 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	460 words across 19 beats	Moderate
Lexical Demand	4.8% of words carry 3+ syllables	Lower
Sentence Complexity	12.1 words average; 0 sentences of 15+ words	Moderate
Formula Readability	Flesch-Kincaid 4.8	Lower

C. Word-Level and Vocabulary Evidence

Three-or-More-Syllable
Examples

Runnymede important Influenced legacies quietly families traditions
generation Timbuktu another Renaissance ideas Exactly Mendozas

Longer Academic
Vocabulary

written meaning travels promise common person living rulers
controlled people peoples travel

Proper Nouns and
Domain Terms

A Its New Runnymede John Be The Magna Carta To
Influenced Became

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

"A rule is written, strong and clear, Its meaning travels year to year."

Longest Sentence (14 words)	<i>“What one great teacher came to know Could give another mind room to grow.”</i>
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Beat / Paragraph Count	19 separated source blocks, each a narrative or informational beat
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What We Carry Forward - Very High Stamina Report

Cluster 7 | Module 4 / Very High Stamina

A. Official Passage Profile

- 799 total words; 403 unique word forms
- 69 punctuation-defined sentences; 33 separated paragraphs / narrative beats
- 11.6 words average sentence length; 16 words in the longest conventional sentence
- 2 sentences of 15+ words; 0 of 20+ words; 0 of 25+ words
- 1 syllable: 574 (71.8%); 2 syllables: 180 (22.5%); 3+ syllables: 45 (5.6%)
- Flesch-Kincaid grade level 4.8, corroborating formula only, not a placement decision
- Estimated single-pass reading time 6.7 to 8.0 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	799 words across 33 beats	Moderate
Lexical Demand	5.6% of words carry 3+ syllables	Lower
Sentence Complexity	11.6 words average; 2 sentences of 15+ words	Moderate
Formula Readability	Flesch-Kincaid 4.8	Lower

C. Word-Level and Vocabulary Evidence

Three-or-More-Syllable
Examples

Runnymede important arguments governments legacy opening
understand familiar Tradition generation carrying forever Timbuktu
protected

Longer Academic
Vocabulary

written meaning travels history engraved questions longpast
challenged rulers question people unfair

Proper Nouns and
Domain Terms

A Its New But Or It The Runnymede People Magna Carta
Where

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

“A rule is written, strong and clear, Its meaning travels year to year.”

Longest Sentence (26 words)

"The lesson was not, "Old is best," Or, "Never question what came next." The lesson was to read and learn, Then test which ideas should return."

Beat / Paragraph Count

33 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.