

THE WRITING ACADEMY®, LLC
COURSE OVERVIEW · TEACHER RESOURCES

Grade 5 Cluster 4 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 5 Supplemental Support Lesson Guide of The Writing Academy®, LLC. It documents every supplied passage version separately while also explaining how the Cluster 4 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 Garden That Wouldn't Grow	Low, Medium, High, Very High	230 to 1,719
Words That Changed a Nation	Low, Medium, High, Very High	206 to 1,706

Overall Purpose and Cluster Architecture

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

The Cluster 4 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 4 selections

SELECTION	LEVEL	WORDS	SENT.	PARA.	AVG. SENT.	3+ SYL.	F-K
The Garden That Wouldn't Grow	Low	230	19	6	12.1	30 (13.0%)	7.5
The Garden That Wouldn't Grow	Medium	530	39	7	13.6	52 (9.8%)	7.3
The Garden That Wouldn't Grow	High	1,171	83	15	14.1	121 (10.3%)	7.5
The Garden That Wouldn't Grow	Very High	1,719	128	24	13.4	188 (10.9%)	7.4
Words That Changed a Nation	Low	206	14	4	14.7	31 (15.0%)	8.5
Words That Changed a Nation	Medium	514	34	8	15.1	95 (18.5%)	10.3
Words That Changed a Nation	High	1,076	75	17	14.3	186 (17.3%)	9.9
Words That Changed a Nation	Very High	1,706	119	28	14.3	331 (19.4%)	10.5

What the Numbers Demonstrate

- The The Garden That Wouldn't Grow sequence grows from 230 to 1,719 words, a 7.47-fold increase in reading volume, and the beat span grows from 6 to 24.
- Three-or-more-syllable density in the The Garden That Wouldn't Grow set moves from 13.0% at the shortest version to 10.9% at the fullest version.
- The Words That Changed a Nation sequence grows from 206 to 1,706 words, a 8.28-fold increase in reading volume, and the beat span grows from 4 to 28.
- Three-or-more-syllable density in the Words That Changed a Nation set moves from 15.0% at the shortest version to 19.4% at the fullest version.

Per-Passage Text Complexity Profiles

One evidentiary profile per supplied passage version

The Garden That Wouldn't Grow - Low Stamina Report

Cluster 4 | Module 1 / Low Stamina

A. Official Passage Profile

- 230 total words; 147 unique word forms
- 19 punctuation-defined sentences; 6 separated paragraphs / narrative beats
- 12.1 words average sentence length; 25 words in the longest conventional sentence
- 6 sentences of 15+ words; 1 of 20+ words; 1 of 25+ words
- 1 syllable: 134 (58.3%); 2 syllables: 66 (28.7%); 3+ syllables: 30 (13.0%)
- Flesch-Kincaid grade level 7.5, corroborating formula only, not a placement decision
- Estimated single-pass reading time 1.9 to 2.3 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	230 words across 6 beats	Lower
Lexical Demand	13.0% of words carry 3+ syllables	Higher
Sentence Complexity	12.1 words average; 6 sentences of 15+ words	Moderate
Formula Readability	Flesch-Kincaid 7.5	Higher

C. Word-Level and Vocabulary Evidence

Three-or-More-Syllable
Examples

grandmothers carefully tomatoes However expected beginning
understood suggested following usual improving condition overly
frustrated

Longer Academic
Vocabulary

enjoyed spending garden planted peppers something forward
season noticed appeared instead healthy

Proper Nouns and
Domain Terms

Kendrix

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

"Kendrix enjoyed spending time in her grandmother's garden."

Longest Sentence (25 words)

“Her grandmother examined the soil and explained that while water is necessary for plant growth, too much water can prevent roots from getting enough air.”

Beat / Paragraph Count

6 separated source blocks, each a narrative or informational beat

The Garden That Wouldn't Grow - Medium Stamina Report

Cluster 4 | Module 2 / Medium Stamina

A. Official Passage Profile

- 530 total words; 251 unique word forms
- 39 punctuation-defined sentences; 7 separated paragraphs / narrative beats
- 13.6 words average sentence length; 25 words in the longest conventional sentence
- 17 sentences of 15+ words; 3 of 20+ words; 1 of 25+ words
- 1 syllable: 325 (61.3%); 2 syllables: 153 (28.9%); 3+ syllables: 52 (9.8%)
- Flesch-Kincaid grade level 7.3, corroborating formula only, not a placement decision
- Estimated single-pass reading time 4.4 to 5.3 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	530 words across 7 beats	Moderate
Lexical Demand	9.8% of words carry 3+ syllables	Moderate
Sentence Complexity	13.6 words average; 17 sentences of 15+ words	Higher
Formula Readability	Flesch-Kincaid 7.3	Higher

C. Word-Level and Vocabulary Evidence

Three-or-More-Syllable
Examples

grandmothers carefully tomatoes However expected grandmother
preparing nutrients arranging afternoon beginning altogether
understood suggested

Longer Academic
Vocabulary

enjoyed spending garden planted peppers something forward
season planting loosened compost explained

Proper Nouns and
Domain Terms

Kendrix

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

"Kendrix enjoyed spending time in her grandmother's garden."

Longest Sentence (25 words)	<i>“Her grandmother examined the soil and explained that while water is necessary for plant growth, too much water can prevent roots from getting enough air.”</i>
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Beat / Paragraph Count	7 separated source blocks, each a narrative or informational beat
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The Garden That Wouldn't Grow - High Stamina Report

Cluster 4 | Module 3 / High Stamina

A. Official Passage Profile

- 1,171 total words; 416 unique word forms
- 83 punctuation-defined sentences; 15 separated paragraphs / narrative beats
- 14.1 words average sentence length; 32 words in the longest conventional sentence
- 37 sentences of 15+ words; 9 of 20+ words; 2 of 25+ words
- 1 syllable: 727 (62.1%); 2 syllables: 323 (27.6%); 3+ syllables: 121 (10.3%)
- Flesch-Kincaid grade level 7.5, corroborating formula only, not a placement decision
- Estimated single-pass reading time 9.8 to 11.7 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	1,171 words across 15 beats	Higher
Lexical Demand	10.3% of words carry 3+ syllables	Moderate
Sentence Complexity	14.1 words average; 37 sentences of 15+ words	Higher
Formula Readability	Flesch-Kincaid 7.5	Higher

C. Word-Level and Vocabulary Evidence

Three-or-More-Syllable
Examples

grandmothers carefully tomatoes However expected grandmother
afternoons preparing conditions nutrients organizing tomato organized
imagined

Longer Academic
Vocabulary

enjoyed spending garden planted peppers something forward
season planting several loosened compost

Proper Nouns and
Domain Terms

Kendrix

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

"Kendrix enjoyed spending time in her grandmother's garden."

Longest Sentence (33 words)	<i>“Too little water can cause them to dry out, but too much water can cause problems, too.” Kendrix realized she had been thinking about only one part of what plants need to survive.”</i>
Beat / Paragraph Count	15 separated source blocks, each a narrative or informational beat

The Garden That Wouldn't Grow - Very High Stamina Report

Cluster 4 | Module 4 / Very High Stamina

A. Official Passage Profile

- 1,719 total words; 576 unique word forms
- 128 punctuation-defined sentences; 24 separated paragraphs / narrative beats
- 13.4 words average sentence length; 29 words in the longest conventional sentence
- 47 sentences of 15+ words; 12 of 20+ words; 2 of 25+ words
- 1 syllable: 1055 (61.4%); 2 syllables: 476 (27.7%); 3+ syllables: 188 (10.9%)
- Flesch-Kincaid grade level 7.4, corroborating formula only, not a placement decision
- Estimated single-pass reading time 14.3 to 17.2 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	1,719 words across 24 beats	Higher
Lexical Demand	10.9% of words carry 3+ syllables	Moderate
Sentence Complexity	13.4 words average; 47 sentences of 15+ words	Higher
Formula Readability	Flesch-Kincaid 7.4	Higher

C. Word-Level and Vocabulary Evidence

Three-or-More-Syllable
Examples

grandmothers carefully tomatoes However expected grandmother
afternoons preparing conditions nutrients organizing tomato organized
imagined

Longer Academic
Vocabulary

enjoyed spending garden planted peppers something forward
season planting several loosened compost

Proper Nouns and
Domain Terms

Kendrix Her Kendrix's What

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

"Kendrix enjoyed spending time in her grandmother's garden."

Longest Sentence (29 words)	<i>“Later that afternoon, she returned with the watering can again because she wanted to make certain none of the plants became thirsty during the hottest part of the day.”</i>
Beat / Paragraph Count	24 separated source blocks, each a narrative or informational beat

Words That Changed a Nation - Low Stamina Report

Cluster 4 | Module 1 / Low Stamina

A. Official Passage Profile

- 206 total words; 136 unique word forms
- 14 punctuation-defined sentences; 4 separated paragraphs / narrative beats
- 14.7 words average sentence length; 21 words in the longest conventional sentence
- 7 sentences of 15+ words; 1 of 20+ words; 0 of 25+ words
- 1 syllable: 121 (58.7%); 2 syllables: 51 (24.8%); 3+ syllables: 31 (15.0%)
- Flesch-Kincaid grade level 8.5, 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 4 beats	Lower
Lexical Demand	15.0% of words carry 3+ syllables	Higher
Sentence Complexity	14.7 words average; 7 sentences of 15+ words	Higher
Formula Readability	Flesch-Kincaid 8.5	Higher

C. Word-Level and Vocabulary Evidence

Three-or-More-Syllable
Examples

colonies important decision frustrated discussions Declaration
Independence document ideas created unalienable including liberty
happiness

Longer Academic
Vocabulary

summer leaders thirteen believed nation approved announce
freedom explained stated people certain

Proper Nouns and
Domain Terms

British Declaration Independence July Great Britain It Adams
John Remember Ladies She

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

"In the summer of 1776, leaders from the thirteen colonies met to make an important decision."

Longest Sentence (32 words)

“One of its most important claims was that “all men are created equal.” It also stated that people are born with certain unalienable rights, including life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.”

Beat / Paragraph Count

4 separated source blocks, each a narrative or informational beat

Words That Changed a Nation - Medium Stamina Report

Cluster 4 | Module 2 / Medium Stamina

A. Official Passage Profile

- 514 total words; 246 unique word forms
- 34 punctuation-defined sentences; 8 separated paragraphs / narrative beats
- 15.1 words average sentence length; 24 words in the longest conventional sentence
- 18 sentences of 15+ words; 6 of 20+ words; 0 of 25+ words
- 1 syllable: 269 (52.3%); 2 syllables: 146 (28.4%); 3+ syllables: 95 (18.5%)
- Flesch-Kincaid grade level 10.3, corroborating formula only, not a placement decision
- Estimated single-pass reading time 4.3 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	514 words across 8 beats	Moderate
Lexical Demand	18.5% of words carry 3+ syllables	Higher
Sentence Complexity	15.1 words average; 18 sentences of 15+ words	Higher
Formula Readability	Flesch-Kincaid 10.3	Higher

C. Word-Level and Vocabulary Evidence

Three-or-More-Syllable
Examples

colonies important decision frustrated discussions Declaration
Independence colonists considered However disagreements government
objected representation

Longer Academic
Vocabulary

summer leaders thirteen believed nation approved happened
themselves without limiting freedoms tensions

Proper Nouns and
Domain Terms

British Declaration Independence July Great Britain Parliament It
King George III Adams

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

"In the summer of 1776, leaders from the thirteen colonies met to make an important decision."

Longest Sentence (32 words)

“One of its most important claims was that “all men are created equal.” It also stated that people are born with certain unalienable rights, including life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.”

Beat / Paragraph Count

8 separated source blocks, each a narrative or informational beat

Words That Changed a Nation - High Stamina Report

Cluster 4 | Module 3 / High Stamina

A. Official Passage Profile

- 1,076 total words; 418 unique word forms
- 75 punctuation-defined sentences; 17 separated paragraphs / narrative beats
- 14.3 words average sentence length; 33 words in the longest conventional sentence
- 36 sentences of 15+ words; 9 of 20+ words; 2 of 25+ words
- 1 syllable: 582 (54.1%); 2 syllables: 303 (28.2%); 3+ syllables: 186 (17.3%)
- Flesch-Kincaid grade level 9.9, corroborating formula only, not a placement decision
- Estimated single-pass reading time 9.0 to 10.8 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	1,076 words across 17 beats	Higher
Lexical Demand	17.3% of words carry 3+ syllables	Higher
Sentence Complexity	14.3 words average; 36 sentences of 15+ words	Higher
Formula Readability	Flesch-Kincaid 9.9	Higher

C. Word-Level and Vocabulary Evidence

Three-or-More-Syllable
Examples

colonies important decision frustrated discussions Declaration
Independence colonists considered However relationship Indian
Parliament representatives

Longer Academic
Vocabulary

summer leaders thirteen believed nation approved happened
themselves traded merchants followed borrowed

Proper Nouns and
Domain Terms

British Declaration Independence July Great Britain English French
Indian War Parliament This

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

"In the summer of 1776, leaders from the thirteen colonies met to make an important decision."

Longest Sentence (33 words)

“Although Americans have continued to debate how these principles should be applied, the words written in 1776 still encourage people to think about freedom, fairness, and the responsibilities of both citizens and government.”

Beat / Paragraph Count

17 separated source blocks, each a narrative or informational beat

Words That Changed a Nation - Very High Stamina Report

Cluster 4 | Module 4 / Very High Stamina

A. Official Passage Profile

- 1,706 total words; 600 unique word forms
- 119 punctuation-defined sentences; 28 separated paragraphs / narrative beats
- 14.3 words average sentence length; 41 words in the longest conventional sentence
- 52 sentences of 15+ words; 18 of 20+ words; 4 of 25+ words
- 1 syllable: 859 (50.4%); 2 syllables: 506 (29.7%); 3+ syllables: 331 (19.4%)
- Flesch-Kincaid grade level 10.5, corroborating formula only, not a placement decision
- Estimated single-pass reading time 14.2 to 17.1 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	1,706 words across 28 beats	Higher
Lexical Demand	19.4% of words carry 3+ syllables	Higher
Sentence Complexity	14.3 words average; 52 sentences of 15+ words	Higher
Formula Readability	Flesch-Kincaid 10.5	Higher

C. Word-Level and Vocabulary Evidence

Three-or-More-Syllable
Examples

colonies important decision frustrated discussions Declaration
Independence colonists considered originally disagreements government
peacefully However

Longer Academic
Vocabulary

summer leaders thirteen believed nation approved happened
themselves subjects traded merchants followed

Proper Nouns and
Domain Terms

British Declaration Independence July English Great Britain French
Indian War North America

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

"In the summer of 1776, leaders from the thirteen colonies met to make an important decision."

Longest Sentence (41 words)

“They accused him of refusing to approve important colonial laws, dissolving colonial legislatures, interfering with courts, maintaining standing armies during peacetime, quartering soldiers, placing unfair taxes on the colonies, and denying colonists many of the rights they believed English citizens deserved.”

Beat / Paragraph Count

28 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.