**Texts We Use for Balanced Literacy**

*(sources: Chicago Literacy Project[Laura Beltchenko],* *NAESP : Using Read Alouds in Today’s Classrooms,[Reba M Wadsworth]*

Texts do not come with a subtitle “This is an Anchor Text,” etc… The information below can help you decide how to best use a text for instruction. Poems and drama can also be anchor texts if they have enough depth of meaning and complexity to really “dig in,” for understanding. This list of CCSS exemplars are not mandatory – they are just examples of some great texts. Finding texts within each category could be one way to start your own Text Sets!

**Anchor Text**

An anchor text is a book, story or poem you read repeatedly with your students but with a different purpose for reading each time you read the text. This may sound like a close reading, but actually an anchor text is a grade level text. The repeated readings focus on grade level skills, strategies, vocabulary and content. The anchor text is not short or extensively long but has enough content to build real knowledge about a topic.

An anchor text is a cornerstone. It builds stamina and perseverance, is age appropriate and is a published piece or contains high quality and accurate information. It is appropriately complex or challenging for the grade. Anchor texts should be easy to access.

**Supporting Texts**

Supporting texts relate to the anchor text. They are usually shorter and come in a variety of text formats and lengths (passages, articles, poems). They build vocabulary and knowledge about the topic. Supporting texts can be used in many flexible ways to provide students with texts at their **individual reading levels.**

**Close Reading Texts**

Close reading focuses on short, high-quality text that is appropriate for reading several times (e.g., a text with complex ideas and structure). Text can be excerpted from a longer piece of work.

**Read Aloud**

Read Aloud texts are usually above grade level but at listening level of the students. The Modeled teacher Read Aloud should actually extend from Kindergarten through High School! Reading-Aloud is a teacher directed modeled reading to develop understandings of what good fluency sounds like and application of reading skills and strategies. The common core influence in Read Aloud is teacher directed. Interactive Read Alouds are a combination of shared reading and teacher directed (Linda Hoyt).

[Read Alouds](http://www.d118.org/district/curriculum/initiatives/components-effective-read-alouds.pdf)

[Read Aloud Project K-2](http://achievethecore.org/author/86/read-aloud-project)

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| **K – 1 (texts in purple are an example of how to create a text set)** | | |
| **Literary Texts** | **Poetry** | **Literary Read Alouds** |
| Minarik, Else Holmelund. Little Bear  Eastman, P. D. Are You My Mother?  Seuss, Dr. Green Eggs and Ham  Lopshire, Robert. Put Me in the Zoo  **Lobel, Arnold. Frog and Toad Together**  Lobel, Arnold. Owl at Home  DePaola, Tomie. Pancakes for Breakfast  Arnold, Tedd. Hi! Fly Guy | Anonymous. “As I Was Going to St. Ives.”  Rossetti, Christina. “Mix a Pancake.”  Fyleman, Rose. “Singing-Time.”  Milne, A. A. “Halfway Down  Chute, Marchette. “Drinking Fountain.”  Hughes, Langston. “Poem.”  Ciardi, John. “Wouldn’t You  Wright, Richard. “Laughing Boy  Greenfield, Eloise. “By Myself  Giovanni, Nikki. “Covers  Merriam, Eve. “It Fell in the City.”  Lopez, Alonzo. “Celebration  **Agee, Jon. “Two Tree Toads** | Baum, L. Frank. The Wonderful Wizard of Oz  Wilder, Laura Ingalls. Little House in the Big Woods  Atwater, Richard and Florence. Mr. Popper’s Penguins  Jansson, Tove. Finn Family Moomintroll  Haley, Gail E. A Story, A Story  Bang, Molly. The Paper Crane  Young, Ed. Lon Po Po: A Red-Riding Hood Story from China  Garza, Carmen Lomas. Family Pictures  Mora, Pat. Tomás and the Library Lady  Henkes, Kevin. Kitten’s First Full Moon  **Read-Aloud Poetry**  Anonymous. “The Fox’s Foray.”  **Langstaff, John. Over in the Meadow.**  Lear, Edward. “The Owl and the Pussycat.”  Hughes, Langston. “April Rain Song  Moss, Lloyd. Zin! Zin! Zin! a Violin |
| **Informational Texts** | **Informational Supporting Texts** | **Informational Read Alouds** |
| **Bulla, Clyde Robert. A Tree Is a Plant**  Aliki. My Five Senses  Hurd, Edith Thacher. Starfish  Aliki. A Weed is a Flower: The Life of George Washington Carver  Crews, Donald. Truck  Hoban, Tana. I Read Signs  Reid, Mary Ebeltoft. Let’s Find Out About Ice Cream  “Garden Helpers.” National Geographic Young Explorers  “Wind Power.” National Geographic Young Explorers | Find texts to support student individual reading level. | **Provensen, Alice and Martin. The Year at Maple Hill Farm**  Gibbons, Gail. Fire! Fire  Dorros, Arthur. Follow the Water from Brook to Ocean  Rauzon, Mark, and Cynthia Overbeck Bix. Water, Water Everywhere  Llewellyn, Claire. Earthworms  Jenkins, Steve, and Robin Page. What Do You Do With a Tail Like This?  Pfeffer, Wendy. From Seed to Pumpkin  Thomson, Sarah L. Amazing Whales  Hodgkins, Fran, and True Kelley. How People Learned to Fly |

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| **Grade 2-3 (texts in purple are an example of how to create a text set)** | | |
| **Literary Texts** | **Poetry** | **Literary Read Alouds** |
| **Gannett, Ruth Stiles. My Father’s Dragon.**  Averill, Esther. The Fire Cat  Steig, William. Amos & Boris  Shulevitz, Uri. The Treasure  Cameron, Ann. The Stories Julian Tells  MacLachlan, Patricia. Sarah, Plain and Tall  Rylant, Cynthia. Henry and Mudge: The First Book of Their Adventures  Stevens, Janet. Tops and Bottoms  LaMarche, Jim. The Raft  Rylant, Cynthia. Poppleton in Winter  Rylant, Cynthia. The Lighthouse Family: The Storm  Osborne, Mary Pope. The One-Eyed Giant  (Book One of Tales from the Odyssey)  Silverman, Erica. Cowgirl Kate and Cocoa | Dickinson, Emily. “Autumn.”  Rossetti, Christina. “Who Has Seen the Wind?”  Millay, Edna St. Vincent. “Afternoon on a Hill.”  Frost, Robert. “Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening.”  Field, Rachel. “Something Told the Wild Geese.”  **Hughes, Langston. “Grandpa’s Stories.”**  Jarrell, Randall. “A Bat Is Born.”  Giovanni, Nikki. “Knoxville, Tennessee.”  Merriam, Eve. “Weather.”  Soto, Gary. “Eating While Reading | **Kipling, Rudyard. “How the Camel Got His Hump.”**  Thurber, James. The Thirteen Clocks  White, E. B. Charlotte’s Web  Selden, George. The Cricket in Times Square  Babbitt, Natalie. The Search for Delicious  Curtis, Christopher Paul. Bud, Not Buddy  Say, Allen. The Sign Painter  **Read Aloud Poetry**  Lear, Edward. “The Jumblies.”  Browning, Robert.  **The Pied Piper of Hamelin**  Johnson, Georgia Douglas. “Your World.”  Eliot, T. S. “The Song of the Jellicles.”  Fleischman, Paul. “Fireflies |
| **Informational Texts** | **Informational Supporting Texts** | **Informational Read Alouds** |
| Aliki. A Medieval Feast  Gibbons, Gail. From Seed to Plant  Milton, Joyce. Bats: Creatures of the Night  **Beeler, Selby. Throw Your Tooth on the Roof:**  **Tooth Traditions Around the World**  Leonard, Heather. Art Around the World  Ruffin, Frances E. Martin Luther King and the March on Washington  St. George, Judith. So You Want to Be President?  Einspruch, Andrew. Crittercam  Kudlinski, Kathleen V. Boy, Were We Wrong About Dinosaurs  Davies, Nicola. Bat Loves the Night  Floca, Brian. Moonshot: The Flight of Apollo 11  Thomson, Sarah L. Where Do Polar Bears Live? | Find texts to support student individual reading level. | Freedman, Russell. Lincoln: A Photobiography  Coles, Robert. The Story of Ruby Bridges  Wick, Walter. A Drop of Water: A Book of Science and Wonder  **Smith, David J. If the World Were a Village: A Book about the World’s People**  Aliki. Ah, Music!  Mark, Jan. The Museum Book: A Guide to Strange and Wonderful Collections  D’Aluisio, Faith. What the World Eats  Arnosky, Jim. Wild Tracks! A Guide to Nature’s Footprints  Deedy, Carmen Agra. 14 Cows for America |

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| **Grade 4-5 (texts in purple are an example of how to create a text set)** | | |
| **Literary Texts** | **Poetry** | **Literary Read Alouds** |
| Carroll, Lewis. Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland  Burnett, Frances Hodgson. The Secret Garden  Farley, Walter. The Black Stallion  Saint-Exupéry, Antoine de. The Little Prince  Babbitt, Natalie. Tuck Everlasting  Singer, Isaac Bashevis. “Zlateh the Goat  Hamilton, Virginia. M. C. Higgins, the Great  **Erdrich, Louise. The Birchbark House**  Curtis, Christopher Paul. Bud, Not Buddy  Lin, Grace. Where the Mountain Meets the Moon | Blake, William. “The Echoing Green.”  Lazarus, Emma. “The New Colossus.”  Thayer, Ernest Lawrence. “Casey at the Bat  Dickinson, Emily. “A Bird Came Down the Walk.”  Sandburg, Carl. “Fog.”  Frost, Robert. “Dust of Snow  Dahl, Roald. “Little Red Riding Hood and the Wolf  **Nichols, Grace. “They Were My People.”**  Mora, Pat. “Words Free As Confetti | Read Alouds for Grade 5 – 6 (not CCSS Exemplars)  <http://nancykeane.com/rl/332.htm> |
| **Informational Texts** | **Informational Supporting Texts** | **Informational Read Alouds** |
| Berger, Melvin. Discovering Mars: The Amazing Story of the Red Planet  Carlisle, Madelyn Wood. Let’s Investigate Marvelously Meaningful Maps  Lauber, Patricia. Hurricanes: Earth’s Mightiest Storms  Otfinoski, Steve. The Kid’s Guide to Money: Earning It,  Saving It, Spending It, Growing It, Sharing It  Wulffson, Don. Toys!: Amazing Stories Behind Some Great Inventions  Schleichert, Elizabeth. “Good Pet, Bad Pet.”  Kavash, E. Barrie. “Ancient Mound Builders.”  Koscielniak, Bruce. About Time: A First Look at Time and Clocks  Banting, Erinn. England the Land  Hakim, Joy. A History of US  Ruurs, Margriet. My Librarian Is a Camel: How Books  Are Brought to Children Around the World  Simon, Seymour. Horses  Montgomery, Sy. Quest for the Tree Kangaroo:  An Expedition to the Cloud Forest of New Guinea  Simon, Seymour. Volcanoes  Nelson, Kadir. We Are the Ship: The Story of Negro League Baseball  Cutler, Nellie Gonzalez. “Kenya’s Long Dry Season  Hall, Leslie. “Seeing Eye to Eye  Ronan, Colin A. “Telescopes.”  **Buckmaster, Henrietta. “Underground Railroad** | Find texts to support student individual reading level. |  |

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| **Grade 6-8 (texts in purple are an example of how to create a text set)** | | |
| **Literary Texts** | **Drama** | **Poetry** |
| Alcott, Louisa May. Little Women  Twain, Mark. The Adventures of Tom Sawyer  L’Engle, Madeleine. A Wrinkle in Time  Cooper, Susan. The Dark Is Rising  Yep, Laurence. Dragonwings  **Taylor, Mildred D. Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry**  Hamilton, Virginia. “The People Could Fly.”  Paterson, Katherine. The Tale of the Mandarin Ducks  Cisneros, Sandra. “Eleven.”  Sutcliff, Rosemary. Black Ships Before Troy: The Story of the Iliad | Fletcher, Louise. Sorry, Wrong Number  Goodrich, Frances and Albert Hackett. The Diary of Anne Frank: A Play  Read Alouds for Grade 5 – 6 (not CCSS Exemplars)  <http://nancykeane.com/rl/332.htm>  [Grades 7 - 8 Read Alouds](http://education.scholastic.ca/product/9780779186785)  [Article: Teacher Read-Alouds in Middle School](http://interactivereadalouds.pbworks.com/f/Tapping+the+Potential+of+Teacher+Read-Alouds+in+Middle+School.pdf) | Longfellow, Henry Wadsworth. “Paul Revere’s Ride.”  Whitman, Walt. “O Captain! My Captain!”  Carroll, Lewis. “Jabberwocky.”  Navajo tradition. “Twelfth Song of Thunder.”  Dickinson, Emily. “The Railway Train.”  Yeats, William Butler. “The Song of Wandering Aengus.”  Frost, Robert. “The Road Not Taken.”  Sandburg, Carl. “Chicago.”  **Hughes, Langston. “I, Too, Sing America.”**  Neruda, Pablo. “The Book of Questions.”  Soto, Gary. “Oranges.”  Giovanni, Nikki. “A Poem for My Librarian, Mrs. Long |
| **Informational Texts Language Arts** | **History /Social Studies Informational Texts** | **Science, Math, Technical Informational Texts** |
| Adams, John. “Letter on Thomas Jefferson.”  Douglass, Frederick. Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass an American Slave, Written by Himself  Churchill, Winston. “Blood, Toil, Tears and Sweat:  Address to Parliament on May 13th, 1940.”  **Petry, Ann. Harriet Tubman: Conductor on the Underground Railroad**  Steinbeck, John. Travels with Charley: In Search of America | United States. Preamble and First Amendment to the United States Constitution. (1787, 1791)  Lord, Walter. A Night to Remember  Isaacson, Phillip. A Short Walk through the Pyramids and through the World of Art  Murphy, Jim. The Great Fire  Greenberg, Jan, and Sandra Jordan.  Vincent Van Gogh: Portrait of an Artist  Partridge, Elizabeth. This Land Was Made for You and Me:  The Life and Songs of Woody Guthrie  Monk, Linda R. Words We Live By: Your Annotated Guide to the Constitution  **Freedman, Russell. Freedom Walkers: The Story of the Montgomery Bus Boycott** | Macaulay, David. Cathedral: The Story of Its Construction  Mackay, Donald. The Building of Manhattan  Enzensberger, Hans Magnus.  The Number Devil: A Mathematical Adventure  Peterson, Ivars and Nancy Henderson. Math Trek Adventures in the Math Zone  Katz, John. Geeks: How Two Lost Boys Rode the Internet out of Idaho  Petroski, Henry. “The Evolution of the Grocery Bag.”  “Geology.” U\*X\*L Encyclopedia of Science “Space Probe.” Astronomy & Space: From the Big Bang to the Big Crunch “Elementary Particles.” New Book of Popular Science California Invasive Plant Council. Invasive Plant Inventory |

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| **Grade 9-10 (texts in purple are an example of how to create a text set)** | | |
| **Literary Texts** | **Drama** | **Poetry** |
| Homer. The Odyssey  Ovid. Metamorphoses  Gogol, Nikolai. “The Nose.”  De Voltaire, F. A. M. Candide, Or The Optimist  Turgenev, Ivan. Fathers and Sons  Henry, O. “The Gift of the Magi.”  Kafka, Franz. The Metamorphosis  Steinbeck, John. The Grapes of Wrath  Bradbury, Ray. Fahrenheit 451  Olsen, Tillie. “I Stand Here Ironing.”  **Achebe, Chinua. Things Fall Apart**  Lee, Harper. To Kill A Mockingbird  Shaara, Michael. The Killer Angels  Tan, Amy. The Joy Luck Club  Álvarez, Julia. In the Time of the Butterflies  Zusak, Marcus. The Book Thief | Sophocles. Oedipus Rex  Shakespeare, William. The Tragedy of Macbeth  Ibsen, Henrik. A Doll’s House  Williams, Tennessee. The Glass Menagerie  Ionesco, Eugene. Rhinoceros  **Fugard, Athol. “Master Harold”...and the boys**  [**High School Read-Alouds (Reading to your students!)**](http://atn-reading-lists.wikispaces.com/Read+alouds+-+high+school) | Shakespeare, William. “Sonnet 73.”  Donne, John. “Song.”  Shelley, Percy Bysshe. “Ozymandias.”  Poe, Edgar Allan. “The Raven.”  Dickinson, Emily. “We Grow Accustomed to the Dark.”  Houseman, A. E. “Loveliest of Trees.”  Johnson, James Weldon. “Lift Every Voice and Sing.”  **Cullen, Countee. “Yet Do I Marvel.”**  Auden, Wystan Hugh. ”Musée des Beaux Arts.”  Walker, Alice. “Women.”  Baca, Jimmy Santiago. “I Am Offering This Poem to You |
| **Informational Texts Language Arts** | **History /Social Studies Informational Texts** | **Science, Math, Technical Informational Text** |
| Henry, Patrick. “Speech to the Second Virginia Convention.”  Washington, George. “Farewell Address.”  **Lincoln, Abraham. “Gettysburg Address.”**  Lincoln, Abraham. “Second Inaugural Address.”  Roosevelt, Franklin Delano. “State of the Union Address.”  Hand, Learned. “I Am an American Day Address.”  Smith, Margaret Chase. “Remarks to the Senate in Support  of a Declaration of Conscience.”  King, Jr., Martin Luther. “Letter from Birmingham Jail.”  King, Jr., Martin Luther. “I Have a Dream: Address Delivered at the  March on Washington, D.C., for Civil Rights on August 28, 1963.”  **Angelou, Maya. I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings**  Wiesel, Elie. “Hope, Despair and Memory.”  Reagan, Ronald. “Address to Students at Moscow State University.”  Quindlen, Anna. “A Quilt of a Country | Brown, Dee. Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee: An Indian History of the American West  Connell, Evan S. Son of the Morning Star: Custer and the Little Bighorn  Gombrich, E. H. The Story of Art, 16th Edition  Kurlansky, Mark. Cod: A Biography of the Fish That Changed the World  **Haskins, Jim. Black, Blue and Gray: African Americans in the Civil War**  Dash, Joan. The Longitude Prize  Thompson, Wendy. The Illustrated Book of Great Composers  Mann, Charles C. Before Columbus: The Americas of 149 | Euclid. Elements  Cannon, Annie J. “Classifying the Stars.”  Walker, Jearl. “Amusement Park Physics.”  Preston, Richard. The Hot Zone: A Terrifying True Story  Devlin, Keith. Life by the Numbers  Hoose, Phillip. The Race to Save Lord God Bird  Hakim, Joy. The Story of Science: Newton at the Center  Nicastro, Nicholas. Circumference: Eratosthenes and the Ancient Quest to Measure the Globe  U.S. Environmental Protection Agency/U.S. Department of Energy. Recommended Levels of Insulation |

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| **Grade 11-12 (texts in purple is an example of how to create a text set)** | | |
| **Literary Texts** | **Drama** | **Poetry** |
| Chaucer, Geoffrey. The Canterbury Tales  De Cervantes, Miguel. Don Quixote  Austen, Jane. Pride and Prejudice  Poe, Edgar Allan. “The Cask of Amontillado.”  **Brontë, Charlotte. Jane Eyre**  Hawthorne, Nathaniel. The Scarlet Letter  Dostoevsky, Fyodor. Crime and Punishment  Jewett, Sarah Orne. “A White Heron.”  Melville, Herman. Billy Budd, Sailor  Chekhov, Anton. “Home.”  Fitzgerald, F. Scott. The Great Gatsby  Faulkner, William. As I Lay Dying  Hemingway, Ernest. A Farewell to…  Hurston, Zora Neale. Their Eyes Were Watching God  Borges, Jorge Luis. “The Garden of Forking Paths.”  Bellow, Saul. The Adventures of Augie March  Morrison, Toni. The Bluest Eye  Garcia, Cristina. Dreaming in Cuban  Lahiri, Jhumpa. The Namesake | Shakespeare, William. The Tragedy of Hamlet  Molière, Jean-Baptiste Poquelin. Tartuffe  Wilde, Oscar. The Importance of Being Earnest  Wilder, Thornton. Our Town: A Play in Three Acts  **Miller, Arthur. Death of a Salesman**  Hansberry, Lorraine. A Raisin in the Sun  Soyinka, Wole. Death and the King’s Horseman: A Play  [**High School Read-Alouds (Reading to your students!)**](http://atn-reading-lists.wikispaces.com/Read+alouds+-+high+school) | Li Po. “A Poem of Changgan.”  Donne, John. “A Valediction Forbidding Mourning.”  Wheatley, Phyllis. “On Being Brought From Africa to America.”  Keats, John. “Ode on a Grecian Urn.”  Whitman, Walt. “Song of Myself.”  Dickinson, Emily. “Because I Could Not Stop for Death.”  Tagore, Rabindranath. “Song VII.”  Eliot, T. S. “The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock.”  Pound, Ezra. “The River Merchant’s Wife: A Letter.”  Frost, Robert. “Mending Wall.”  Neruda, Pablo. “Ode to My Suit.”  Bishop, Elizabeth. “Sestina.”  Ortiz Cofer, Judith. “The Latin Deli: An Ars Poetica.”  Dove, Rita. “Demeter’s Prayer to Hades.”  Collins, Billy. “Man Listening to Disc |
| **Informational Texts Language Arts** | **History /Social Studies Informational Texts** | **Science, Math, Technical Informational Texts** |
| Paine, Thomas. Common Sense  Jefferson, Thomas. The Declaration of Independence  United States. The Bill of Rights (Amendments One through Ten of the United States Constitution).  Thoreau, Henry David. Walden  Emerson, Ralph Waldo. “Society and Solitude.”  Porter, Horace. “Lee Surrenders to Grant, April 9th, 1865.”  **Chesterton, G. K. “The Fallacy of Success.”**  Mencken, H. L. The American Language, 4th Edition  Wright, Richard. Black Boy  Orwell, George. “Politics and the English Language.”  Hofstadter, Richard. “Abraham Lincoln and the Self-Made Myth.”  Tan, Amy. “Mother Tongue.”  Anaya, Rudolfo. “Take the Tortillas Out of Your Poetry.” | Tocqueville, Alexis de. Democracy in America  Declaration of Sentiments by the Seneca Falls Conference  Douglass, Frederick. “What to the Slave Is the Fourth of July?:  An Address Delivered in Rochester, New York, on 5 July 1852.”  An American Primer. Edited by Daniel J. Boorstin  Lagemann, Ellen Condliffe. “Education.”  McPherson, James M. What They Fought For 1861–1865  The American Reader: Words that Moved a Nation, 2nd Edition  Amar, Akhil Reed. America’s Constitution: A Biography  McCullough, David. 1776…  Bell, Julian. Mirror of the World: A New History of Art  FedViews by the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco | Paulos, John Allen. Innumeracy:  Mathematical Illiteracy and Its Consequences  Gladwell, Malcolm. The Tipping Point: How Little Things  Can Make a Big Difference  Tyson, Neil deGrasse. “Gravity in Reverse:  **The Tale of Albert Einstein’s ‘Greatest Blunder.’”**  Calishain, Tara, and Rael Dornfest. Google Hacks:  Tips & Tools for Smarter Searching, 2nd Edition  Kane, Gordon. “The Mysteries of Mass.”  Fischetti, Mark. “Working Knowledge: Electronic Stability Control.”  U.S. General Services Administration. Executive Order 13423: Strengthening Federal Environmental, Energy,  and Transportation Management  Kurzweil, Ray. “The Coming Merger of Mind and Machine.”  Gibbs, W. Wayt. “Untangling the Roots of Cancer.”  Gawande, Atul. “The Cost Conundrum: Health Care Costs in McAllen, Texas |