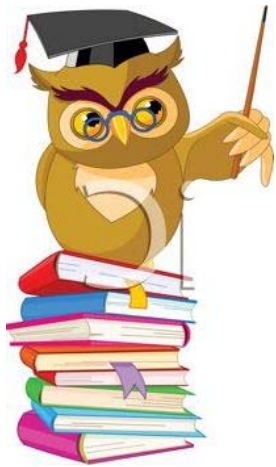


ELA Passage Selection for Grades 3-12



What to consider when
selecting passages for instruction and assessment

Wendy Dury-Samson and Dr. Rosemarie Heinegg
Office of State Assessment

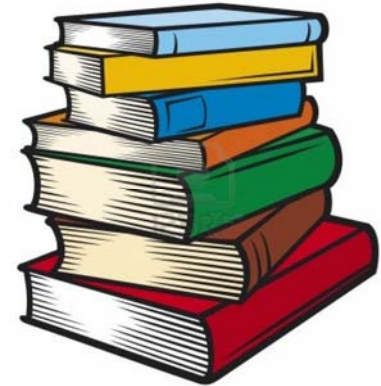
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Ideally, selected texts for students in Grades 3-12 should be...

- ▶ developmentally/grade appropriate in both complexity and content
- ▶ fair and unbiased for students
- ▶ representative of various genres, literary styles and cultures
- ▶ able to address a wide variety of learning standards
- ▶ worthy of reading
- ▶ rich in literary elements and strategies for analysis



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When selecting for classroom use, teachers can use passages that...

- ▶ may require some scaffolding or background knowledge
- ▶ address student interests and meet learning objectives
- ▶ will support cross-curricular or inter-disciplinary learning
- ▶ may only be of local interest



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When selecting passages for NYS ELA assessments, there are other considerations. Passages must...

- ▶ meet established criteria for length (word count)
- ▶ vary in complexity within established grade bands
- ▶ be appropriate and likely of interest to students across the entire state



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Passages must...(continued)

- ▶ be suitable for item development
- ▶ be information rich and demonstrate exemplary writing skill
- ▶ represent a variety of eras, genres, topics, styles, and cultures



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What does passage selection look like in practice?

On your table, you will find copies of passages from Grades 4, 6, and 8 and high school that were used on NYS ELA assessments. Choose one grade you would like to review.

Take 5 minutes to read the texts for your grade, considering the information that was just shared with you.

- ▶ Do the passages represent different genres and styles?
- ▶ Are the passages interesting and accessible to a wide variety of students?
- ▶ Can the passages be used to assess several learning standards?

Take a minute to discuss with your colleagues how your classroom practice may change as a result of today's presentation.



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THANK YOU

We value your opinions and feedback!
<https://www.research.net/r/passageselect>

If you would like to participate in the test development process visit us at <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/assessment/teacher/home.html>

For additional questions about NYS assessments, please email emscassessinfo@nysed.gov



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