

Glencoe Backpack Reader

Teacher Edition

Backpack Reader is a set of six independent readers designed as an adjunct to the *Reading with Purpose* basal series. Each book is organized around four of the same Big Questions found in the basal text. For the students' convenience, the books are a manageable size so that they may be easily carried in a backpack.

Organization

Each unit begins with a short introduction to the Big Question. This is followed by a reminder of the four reading skills addressed in the unit.

Each selection is introduced by a head note that can aid the student in setting a purpose for reading. Reminders of the reading skills featured in the unit occur at intervals during each selection. This tie-in to the reading skills taught in the basal program provides a gradual release from directed reading.

At the end of each selection, an opportunity is provided for the students to respond to the Big Question in writing and in discussion.

Using the Books

You have several options for using the independent readers.

1. You may direct the students to read the selections on their own and may check their understanding and response to the readings by periodically checking their Learner's Notebooks.
2. You may suggest specific selections to students based on their reading and interest levels. This teacher manual will include the Dale-Chall rating for each selection.
3. You may use the questions on each selection provided in ExamView to get quantifiable data on the students' mastery of the reading.
4. You may provide class time for Literature Discussions and Partner Talk or for paired reading of longer selections.

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Course 1 Book 1

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The following annotated list contains the estimated reading level of each selection calculated according to the Dale-Chall formula. It also provides clues to the content of each selection and how it ties into the Big Question of each unit.

As guides in determining the students' ability to deal with specific selections, you are urged to consider not only the Dale-Chall score but also the genre of the selection and the area of the students' interest and experience.

	Dale-Chall Reading Score
Unit 1: Why read?	
Gerri Miller Star Spotlight: Marc John Jefferies Magazine article	6.2
The young actor and author describes his life, his work, and the importance of reading in all facets of life.	
Mike Lupica from Travel Team Fiction	6.1
Danny plays basketball by himself in the driveway where he creates whole games in his imagination. He works hard to overcome his small size and to stay positive in the face of his parents, divorce and being turned down for the traveling basketball team.	
Nancy Bo Flood Silent Dance: Dancing with the Deaf Magazine article	5.8
In this profile of a program that teaches dance to the hearing impaired, the reader learns that deaf people sometimes learn dance more quickly than hearing people.	
Janeen R. Adil Dancers on Wheels Magazine article	6.3
Being in a wheelchair can't stop these dancers from doing what they love, because dance comes from the heart.	
Terry Egan, Stan Friedmann, Mike Levine Mario and His Fields of Dreams Biography	6.7
Forced to quit baseball after being hit in the head by a pitch, young Mario Cuomo went to college and found a new outlet for his energies: politics.	
Katherine House Kids Voting USA Magazine article	6.0
Modeled on the Costa Rican tradition of bringing children to the polls, this program aims to increase voter participation by getting young people and their parents more involved in civic matters.	

Bizet Kizkorn **Word Wise**..... **Graphic novel****6.4**

A young girl hides from bullies by getting herself put in detention, and all the reading she does there helps her to qualify for admission to a better school. There she meets a fascinating new friend.

Nikki Grimes **The Dare**..... **Poem****5.4**

The speaker in this poem knows the difference between accepting a challenge and letting other people control her. She accepts a challenge to climb a tree, but she won't take a dare to jump out of it.

Sarah E. Romanov **Who Turned on the Faucet?** **Magazine article****6.4**

This article presents an overview of different kinds of tear production and some of the research that is being done about tears and crying.

Diane Wolkstein **The Red Lion** **Folktale****5.6**

A Persian prince runs away in order to avoid a rite of passage in which he must face a lion, but no matter where he goes he encounters a lion. Finally he returns home to pass his test.

Richard P. Feynman **The Making of a Scientist** **Autobiography****6.2**

Renowned physicist Richard Feynman describes the conversations he had as a young child with his father; these conversations planted in him the essential seed of curiosity.

Sandra Cisneros **Abuelito Who** **Poem****5.4**

The speaker in the poem explores the many ways that her relationship with her grandfather enriches her life, and the way that the speaker feels her grandfather's absence when he is ill.

Barbara Winther **Macona, The Honest Warrior**..... **Play** **7.3**

When a sneaky warrior from a neighboring village accuses Macona of insulting him, Macona must defend his honor by demonstrating his resourcefulness and courage.

Unit 2: What brings out the best in you?

Judith Logan Lehne **The Blue Darter** **Short story****6.5**

Jonathan realizes that his fears of being teased for having a female best friend are keeping him from sticking up for her. He finds the courage to defend her, and her pitching skills silence his teammates.

Avi **Scout's Honor** **Autobiography****6.3**

Three boys from Brooklyn stick together as they endure an ill-planned and ill-fated camping trip to New Jersey.

Denise Henry **Tracy McGrady** Magazine article **6.2**
The NBA star talks about the way his parents, his teammates, his fans, and even opposing fans inspire him to work harder toward his goal of winning a championship.

Jerzy Drozd and **The Calamity Kids in:**
Sara Turner **Weakness of Will**..... Graphic novel **6.8**
Will contemplates leaving his circle of friends, but he stays after the Calamity Kids help him understand how much his constant striving to do better inspires them.

Racing Stripes..... Magazine article **6.2**
Actor Frankie Muniz talks about his role as the voice of an animated zebra in the movie Racing Stripes and reminds readers that pleasing others is not as important as being true to one's own best instincts.

Sarah Weeks **Experts, Incorporated**..... Short story **6.8**
Under pressure to complete an essay on his career ambitions, the narrator finds an unusual way to help prevent parents from saddling children with names that will get them teased: he plans to start a child-naming service.

Kari K. Ridge **Why Music Matters**..... Magazine article **6.2**
The music program profiled in this selection aims to keep students out of trouble, help them learn to focus, and enhance their educational experience in all subjects through the study of music.

Walter Dean Myers **A Cowboy's Diary** Historical fiction **5.4**
At sixteen, a young African American man leaves home to join a cattle drive. In the course of the drive he learns how to be a cowboy and, more importantly, how to be a man.

Christa Champion **I Jump Field** Poem **5.9**
The speaker of this poem prefers the weightlessness of the high jump and the long jump to the more popular track events.

Karen Hesse **On Stage** Poem **5.8**
In this poem, the speaker compares playing piano—the sense of freedom she gets from entertaining people and connecting with the music—to being in heaven.

Kathryn D. Sullivan **Breaking Down the Walls** .. Magazine article **5.3**
The first American woman to walk in space relates a childhood experience that helped her realize that being yourself is much more important than worrying about how others see you.

Bárbara C. Cruz **The Little Ballerina** **Biography** **5.9**
This selection describes the horrific traffic accident that landed the young Frida Kahlo in the hospital for months. It was during her recovery that she first started to paint.

Tim Myers **Rock Takes a Name** **Folktale** **5.7**
A Native American boy goes on a quest to find an adult name for himself, only to find that he already has a name that suits him perfectly.

UNIT 3: What’s fair and what’s not?

Michael Dahlie **The Elián Gonzalez Story** **Nonfiction** **6.4**
When Elián Gonzalez and his mother set out to escape Cuba, his father, unaware of their plans, stayed behind. Elián made it to the United States, but his mother died on the way. Elián’s relatives in Miami wanted him to stay in the U.S. His father demanded he be returned to Cuba. A bitter custody battle followed which centered on the question of whether sending the boy back to Cuba was in his best interest, and whether the U.S. government had the right to deny a father’s rights.

Harry Mazer **Falling Off the Empire**
State Building **Short story** **5.3**
Lenny is a young boy growing up in New York City and playing on the city streets. Vicik is Lenny’s friend, a bigger, stronger boy and a natural leader. Lenny’s home life is not ideal, but he gains a new appreciation for Vicik when he gets a glimpse of what Vicik’s life is like at home.

Phillip Hoose **Elizabeth Eckford: Facing a Mob**
on the First Day of School **Biography** **6.0**
A member of the so-called Little Rock Nine, the first African Americans to attend Little Rock Central High School, recalls the difficulties of her first day and year there.

Nina Jaffe and
Steve Zeitlin **The Water Pot and the Necklace**..... **Folktale** **6.2**
A quarrel erupts between best friends when Alaté, jealous of Ashabi, demands the return of a water pot and forces Ashabi to cut down her favorite tree. Ashabi’s revenge on Alaté nearly costs the life of her former friend’s daughter. Just in time Ashabi realizes the folly of returning bad for bad.

Douglas Holgate **Theo and Rustbucket**..... **Graphic novel** **6.0**
A boy sacrifices his robotic best friend to save a bully from a burning building. He earns the bully’s respect and a new best friend.

Farah Ahmedi: An Afghan Girl Shares the Story of Her Life Magazine article**5.6**

A young Afghan landmine victim talks about the explosion that claimed her leg, American freedom, and overcoming adversity with hope.

Judith Viorst **Mother Doesn't Want a Dog**Poem**5.4**

The speaker solves the problem of her mother's opposition to getting a dog by getting a pet that her mother will probably like even less—a snake.

Langston Hughes **Merry-Go-Round**.....Poem**6.2**

The speaker, an African American from the segregated South, asks where the Jim Crow section of a merry-go-round is.

Cheating: Excuses, Excuses..... Magazine article**5.3**

There are many “excuses” for cheating but, as this article shows, none of them stands up to scrutiny.

Qyzra Walji and Sandra Fertman Ryan **What a Wish!**..... Magazine article**5.8**

A teenager with cerebral palsy describes her life and reminds us all not to give up on life or accept limitations.

UNIT 4: What makes you who you are?

Ron Arias with JoJo, Henry, and Ringo Garza **Los Lonely Boys Sound Off** Magazine article**6.2**

The Tex-Mex trio talks about music, family, and the experiences that shaped them.

Alden R. Carter **Pig Brains** Short story**6.3**

A bully gets his comeuppance when the narrator devises an elaborate scheme to make the bully think he has eaten pig brains.

Deborah Underwood **Beavers Busted!**..... Magazine article**5.9**

Authorities find that a group of beavers has been using stolen currency to repair and maintain their dam.

René Saldaña Jr. **My Self Myself**..... Short story**6.4**

Missy is jealous of the attention her little brother receives from their parents, but when she realizes that he is growing up too, their relationship becomes much better and takes on a more mature tone.

Julius Lester **Ray Charles**..... Biography**6.5**
Ray Charles refused to let his blindness be a handicap. From playing piano to fixing stereo equipment he could do most anything a sighted person could do.

Gerri Miller **Behind the Scenes of
High School Musical** Magazine article**5.9**
Actor Zac Efron talks about the hard work it takes to succeed, the need to trust your own instincts, and the importance of resisting the pressure to conform to others' images of who you are.

Steven Maxwell **Alienation!** Graphic novel**6.5**
With the help of his human friend, a young man from a race of brutal interplanetary conquerors realizes that he does not have to follow in his father's footsteps.

Hope Anita Smith **The Whole World in His Hands**Poem**5.9**
The speaker uses the way family members pose for a portrait as a metaphor for the bonds of familial love.

Ellen Wittlinger **Epiphany**..... Short story**6.3**
When they enter junior high school, race comes between two girls who have been best friends for years. But DeMaris won't let go of her friend Epiphany that easily. Everybody learns something when DeMaris decides to sit with the African American kids at lunch.

Glenis Redmond **Mama's Magic**Poem**5.7**
The speaker praises her mother's ability to remain positive in tough times and to raise children who are proud and confident.

Course 1 Book 2

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The following annotated list contains the estimated reading level of each selection calculated according to the Dale-Chall formula. It also provides clues to the content of each selection and how it ties into the Big Question of each unit.

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	Dale-Chall Reading Score
Unit 5: How should you deal with bullies?	
G. Clifton Wisler Texas Twister Short story	5.3
When Todd's mother remarries, the biggest bully in town becomes his stepbrother. The relationship between Todd and Jeff is rocky until they are brought together in a crisis. They are caught in a tornado, and Jeff pulls Todd from the wreckage.	
	Bullies: What is Bullying? .. Magazine article
This article enumerates the various forms of bullying, from physical violence to the silent treatment.	
	6.0
	Growing from the Pain Autobiography
The speaker recounts her experiences with a grammar school bully and how she overcame the problem. Through a combination of her determination not to be bullied and a greater understanding of the bully's actions, the speaker solves the situation and becomes a better person.	
	6.1
Courtney Grant Stand Up for Yourself Magazine article	6.1
A student relates how he stood up to a bully by offering him a handshake. He also discusses strategies for helping others deal with bullying.	
Angela Shelf Medearis I'd RatherPoem	5.5
The speaker shows the psychological effects of bullying by listing a series of unpleasant things she'd rather do than walk down the hall at school where the boys hang out.	
Barrie Wade Truth	5.9
The speaker reminds readers that words can be more hurtful than physical blows, and that physical scars often heal faster than psychological scars.	
	4.9
	What Girls Do Poem
The speaker laments the psychological and emotional bullying inflicted by girls on one another and the seeming apathy of parents and adults.	

Ben Shannon **Classified** Graphic novel **7.8**
A young computer wiz helps the C.I.A. take down a terrorist cell and uses technology to teach the school bully a lesson as well.

The Shah Weaves a Rug Folktale **5.4**
Imprisoned by bandits who would sell him into slavery, the shah of Persia hatches a scheme to play on the bandits' greed and win his freedom. He promises to weave them a rug which will bring them far more money than selling him into bondage, but he outwits the bandits by weaving a secret message to the queen into the rug's border.

Bullies: Innocent Bystanders Magazine article **6.4**
Most bullying happens in front of audiences who don't say or do anything to stop it. This article contains advice and strategies for helping others who are being bullied.

Jean Fritz *from Homesick* Short story **5.8**
When an American girl attending British school in China refuses to sing "God Save the King," she is threatened by a British classmate. Her situation seems impossible until her father reminds her that "My Country 'Tis of Thee" shares the same tune.

Francisco Jiménez **Learning the Game** Short story **5.2**
Watching a fellow farm worker stand up to the contractor inspires Panchito to challenge his little brother's exclusion from the neighborhood game of kick-the-can. But Panchito soon learns that standing up for yourself in the real world isn't a game.

Unit 6: What is a hero?

Betsy Byars,
Betsy Duffey,
and Laurie Myers **Bear** Short story **5.1**
When the neighbors' excitable dog falls through the ice on the pond behind his house, the narrator's smart and enormous Newfoundland, Bear, jumps in after him and smashes a path through the ice to shore.

Laura Daily **A Tip of the Hat** Magazine article **6.5**
Mollie Schmitt has collected nearly five thousand hats to give to cancer patients who have lost their hair due to chemotherapy treatments.

Angela Johnson **Underground Railroad** Poem **5.3**
The speaker tells of her early desire to help escaping slaves on the Underground Railroad, even before she was old enough to understand that it wasn't an actual railroad.

Eloise Greenfield	Harriet Tubman	Poem	7.0
The speaker pays tribute to Harriet Tubman, who made nineteen trips back to the slaveholding South to help enslaved people escape to freedom.			
Jan Klinkbeil	Tomorrow Man	Graphic novel	6.2
Two members of Tomorrow Man’s fan club are shocked to find that Mr. Thurber, the man they thought was Tomorrow Man’s nemesis, is actually a friend with whom he sometimes disagrees. Thurber and Tomorrow Man work together to combat evil.			
Dave Crawley	Guide Dog	Poem	4.2
The speaker tells fondly of the relationship between guide dog and owner, in which the owner takes care of the dog at home and the dog takes care of the owner in the outside world.			
Angela W. Schultz	Seeing the Needs of Others	Magazine article	5.7
Members of a 4-H group in Idaho are surrogate families for puppies destined for guide dog school.			
Christina Mierau	Great Expectations	Biography	6.6
Elizabeth Cady Stanton learned early the secondary position that women held in society, but that only made her more determined to excel, to be educated, and to improve the lives of women.			
	Cuckoo	Folktale	6.3
Everyone thinks that Cuckoo is too proud and lazy, but when a fire threatens the birds’ winter food supply, Cuckoo saves the day.			
Huynh Quang Nhuong	The Horse Snake	Short story	5.6
A village comes together to combat a large venomous snake which threatens their lives and livestock.			
Jessica Ramirez	In Search of a Better Life ...	Magazine article	4.8
The author reflects on the sacrifices made by her parents when they left their home and family in Mexico and came to the United States to a life of twelve-hour workdays. Having lived through the tough times, she has a keen sense of what her parents gave up for their children’s future.			
Nancy Byrd Turner	Washington	Poem	5.7
The speaker pays tribute to our first president and the deep love of land and country that impelled him to join the revolutionary cause.			

Sheila Wood Foard **A Battle for the Earth** Biography **5.8**
Rachel Carson used her considerable writing talents to draw the world’s attention to the environmental damage being done by the use of the pesticide DDT.

Richard Peck **Three-Century Woman** Short story **6.2**
Great grandmother Breckenridge is no historical artifact at 102 years old. She’s as sharp as ever, and her great granddaughter learns new respect for her as she handles the pushy local media.

Paul Rusesabagina **Uncommon Courage** Essay **5.9**
Paul Rusesabagina, whose heroic actions saved more than twelve hundred people during the Rwandan genocide, talks about his heroes and the important lessons he learned from them.

Richard Jerome **Quick Thinking** Magazine article **7.0**
A quick-witted boy manages to alert an amateur pilot when one of the wheels falls off his aircraft.

UNIT 7: What can we learn from our mistakes?

Ray Bradbury **Time in Thy Flight**..... Fantasy **6.2**
Three students and a teacher from an antiseptic future travel back to 1928 to experience a circus, the Fourth of July, and Halloween. Two of the students run off and decide to stay in the “messy” and “chaotic” past rather than return to their boring, metallic future.

Jamie Kiffel **Spooky Myths Busted!** Magazine article **6.5**
This article lists and debunks three very common superstitions: that breaking mirrors brings bad luck, that knocking on wood brings good luck, and that Friday the 13th is an unlucky day.

Joyce Hansen **The Tail** Short story **6.1**
Tasha doesn’t want to babysit her little brother all summer. She doesn’t do a very good job and loses track of him the first day. Everything turns out for the best, and Tasha learns to be more responsible when watching Junior.

Chris van Allsburg **My First Step to the White House**..... Autobiography **5.9**
After agreeing not to use his go-kart without his father present, a young boy does just that and melts a hole in the newly paved driveway. Though his parents don’t notice immediately, the boy can’t bring himself to lie about the incident. He comes clean and receives a lighter punishment than he expects. He relates this to the story of George Washington and the cherry tree.

M. E. Kerr **I've Got Gloria** Short story **6.3**

Scotty decides to take revenge on his teacher for failing him in math by pretending to hold her dog for ransom. Scotty's mom and the teacher figure out the scheme just as Scotty's conscience gets to him. Scotty learns to take responsibility for his actions, including failing math.

Laurence Pringle **Galloping Gertie** Essay **6.4**

This selection describes the collapse of the Tacoma Narrows Bridge, which shook apart in the wind because of a design flaw.

Joe St. Pierre **Space Base 2101** Graphic novel **7.5**

Elise has a chance to win the Space Camp competition if she can win the final race, but her computer keeps crashing. She feels like giving up, but her father convinces her that her ability, not the computer's, is what counts. With skill and quick thinking, she wins the race.

X. J. Kennedy **Dangerous Ice** Poem **5.7**

The speaker warns readers not to play near bubbling ice. The bubbling could be a sign that polar bears are near.

Carl Sandburg **Primer Lesson** Poem **5.0**

The speaker warns of the danger of "proud words": they tend to take on a life of their own, and that makes them very difficult to take back.

Gary Soto **First Job** Short story **6.4**

Alex is so eager to start working that he takes an offer from a neighbor to rake and burn leaves in her backyard. Unfortunately, he forgets that his first job is actually to watch his little brother Jaime. Alex runs back to his house to check on Jaime as the fire burns out of control, burning the rake and scorching the fence.

UNIT 8: What makes a friend?

Kate DiCamillo *from* **Because of Winn-Dixie** Fiction **6.2**

Opal is new in town. She is very lonely since her mother left and her father began retreating into his shell. One day she meets a dog in the grocery store, and the dog ends up introducing her to all sorts of new friends. The dog even gets Opal's father to laugh.

Kagan McLeod **Rice Bowl** Graphic novel **5.5**

When his friend Rice Bowl loses his job, San Te offers to bring him to the temple to study. Life at the temple is too strenuous for Rice Bowl, and he resolves to leave. San Te designs a physical test to keep Rice Bowl at the temple. Rice Bowl, when he overhears the master punishing San Te for Rice Bowl's laziness, resolves to stay at the temple and work harder.

Aline Alexander Newman **Do Animals Love Each Other?** Magazine article**6.4**

A mother elephant, separated from her baby in a flash flood, calls out to her in reassurance. A cat leads its blind sibling around by the tail. These animals seem to be exhibiting love, but not everyone agrees. The difficulty of defining love and understanding animals' feelings prevents us from knowing for sure.

as told to Susan Crane **After the Tsunami: Premavathi**..... Magazine article**5.2**

Premavathi, a teenage girl from southern India, recalls how she saved three young children from the onrushing waters of the December 26, 2004, tsunami.

told by Paul Goble **Adopted by the Eagles**..... Folktale**5.5**

Tall Bear and White Hawk, two best friends, are both in love with Red Leaf. Returning from a horse raid, White Hawk tricks Tall Bear and leaves him to die on a rock ledge. A family of eagles helps Tall Bear survive and escape. He returns to his village, marries Red Leaf, and the couple returns to cement the friendship between men and eagles. White Hawk flees, but Tall Bear convinces the rest of the tribe not to pursue and kill him.

Kristine O'Connell
George **Which Lunch Table?**.....Poem**6.7**

The speaker contemplates where to sit at lunch in a new school. The poem expresses the anxiety of not having a place.

Sandra Cisneros **Good Hot Dogs**.....Poem**5.6**

The speaker describes an after-school ritual of going out to a hot dog stand with her friend. The poem is a warm recollection of food and friendship.

Reinhardt Jung **The Eye in the Sea** Fantasy**5.7**

A young Irish boy encounters a whale in Donegal Bay. The whale tells the boy a story about being trapped there as a child, and then being released by human children who pitied him. The boy returns home and hears the same story from his father.

as told to Sandra
Fertman Ryan **Fostering Love** Magazine article**6.3**

Julia Kraus shares her experiences growing up with more than 250 foster siblings. It wasn't easy, and some of the kids had terrible heart-wrenching problems, but Julia feels well rewarded by the experience. She has learned a lot about how bad things are for many kids, and she has learned that the world does not revolve just around her.

Pleasant DeSpain **The Ghost Dog**.....Folktale**5.4**

In this folktale a spectral dog roams a mountain pass in Virginia. When an Englishwoman looking for her missing husband and dog describes the ghostly Labrador perfectly, a local man takes her up to the pass at night. The dog leads them to her husband's remains.

Kay Walker **My Inspiration**Poem**5.7**

The speaker praises poet Gwendolyn Brooks for teaching the speaker to be proud of her race and for inspiring her to succeed.

Judith Viorst **Since Hanna Moved Away**.....Poem**6.8**

The speaker laments the seemingly drab emptiness of the world now that her friend has moved away.

Angela Johnson **Cracks**Poem**6.4**

The speaker alludes to the children's rhyme, "Step on a crack, break your mother's back." She says she looks carefully at the ground wherever she goes in order to avoid stepping on cracks in the sidewalk.

Wenta Watson **Abe and the Runaways**.....Play**5.8**

Two runaway slaves hide out in an Indiana schoolhouse. When their owner comes looking for them one boy volunteers to help in exchange for a reward. Young Abraham Lincoln, however, knows where the runaways are and does not give them away, even though his family could use the money.

Course 2 Book 1

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Refer to the following annotated list for the estimated reading level of each selection, calculated according to the Dale-Chall formula. After the title entry, you will find clues to the content of the selection and the way it ties in to the Big Question of each unit.

As guides in determining the students’ ability to deal with specific selections, be sure to consider not only the Dale-Chall reading score but also the genre and the area of the students’ interest and experience.

Unit 1: Why do we read?

**Dale-Chall
Reading Score**

Jerzy Drozd and Sara Turner	The Calamity Kids in: The Bermuda Triangle Terrarium Graphic novel	5.9
A group of kids from a town called Calamity have a sci-fi adventure involving aliens and a terrarium! Reading can open the door to this and many other adventures.		
Gwendolyn Brooks	To Young ReadersPoem	6.5
The poet reminds us that reading sustains us and allows us to participate more fully in the world.		
Shel Silverstein	InvitationPoem	6.0
Reading engages the imagination, and it is fun. This poem helps motivate students to accept the “invitation” to read.		
Sarah Ives	Real Spider Superpowers .. Magazine article	6.5
This article describes the qualities of real spiders that rival the abilities of Spiderman himself.		
T. Ernesto Bethancourt	Blues for Bob E. BrownShort story	5.5
A young musician connects with his long-absent grandfather and discovers that his talent is part of his family heritage.		
Eloise Quintanilla	Hurricane Emily Bad News for Endangered Turtles Magazine article	6.8
Humans are not the only ones affected by dangerous weather.		
David George Gordon	Naked Animals Magazine article	6.9
The selection helps us understand how different species adapt to their environments.		

Heather Herman	Animal House Magazine article	6.4
A teenager mounts a campaign to promote better treatment of circus animals.		
Kristin Baird Rattini	King Tut’s Mysterious Death Magazine article	7.9
The past comes alive in a detailed description of the clues to King Tut’s death.		
Rudyard Kipling	Rikki-tikki-tavi Short story	6.2
A mongoose is the unlikely hero in this old favorite Kipling story set in British colonial India.		

Unit 2: How can we become who we want to be?

Gary Soto	The No-Guitar Blues Short story	5.6
A boy anxious to earn money to buy a guitar decides to collect a reward for returning a “lost” dog. But his conscience bothers him about his dishonesty and he comes to realize that being dishonest could stand in the way of becoming who he wants to be.		
Merrick Johnston	Merrick Johnston: Mountain Climber Biography	6.5
Becoming who we want to be takes preparation, strength, and perseverance. Merrick Johnston is a real person who embodies all of these characteristics.		
Shaheem Reid	Krumping Magazine article	6.9
Becoming who we want to be involves trying new things, like krumping, a kind of hip-hop dancing in clown regalia. This offbeat activity has been a positive influence in the lives of some modern teens.		
Sarah Ives	Chicago Kids Sink Their Teeth into Dino Camp Magazine article	7.0
Kids from lower-income families get an opportunity to sample the life of paleontologists, an experience that opens up future possibilities.		
Steven Maxwell	Asteroid Belt Graphic novel	5.9
In a sci-fi setting, a boy learns that earning a karate belt takes patience. You can’t become who you want to be by rushing into a challenge.		
Brod Bagert	Caterpillars Poem	7.0
You have to look past the prickly fuzz of caterpillars to see the butterflies they will become. You have to go beyond people’s appearances to see who or what they may become.		

X. J. Kennedy **The Girl Who Makes the Cymbals Bang**Poem**5.5**

A girl believes in her abilities and succeeds in changing the band leader’s preconceived notions about what girls can do.

Jennifer Trujillo **The Race**Poem**6.1**

A girl, with the support of her grandmother, enters and wins a horse race in which she is the only female rider.

Sharon Robinson **A Determined Pair** Biography**6.8**

This article describes the struggles and achievements of Jackie Robinson and his wife. They achieve success because they adhere to their goals and principles.

Merrill Markoe **The Dog Diaries**..... Essay**6.0**

With humor and imagination, a dog owner describes what it would be like to share the lives of her dogs for a day.

Juliann F. Willey **It’s Not a Crime to Love Science** Essay **7.1**

A forensic scientist analyzes the ways girls are discouraged from pursuing careers in science and what can be done about it.

Cherylene Lee **Hollywood and the Pits** Autobiography**6.0**

The narrator comes to terms with outgrowing her show business career as she finds a new and fascinating pursuit.

UNIT 3: Who can we really count on?

Toni Cade Bambara **Raymond’s Run**Short story**6.5**

A young runner learns respect for her opponent and finds a new appreciation for her mentally handicapped brother.

Bizet Kizcorn **Tales of a Seventh Grade Nada** Graphic novel**6.5**

A girl tries desperately to fit in with the popular crowd, but she finally realizes that the people she can really count on are her old friends. She can be her best self when she’s with them.

Lou Gehrig **The Luckiest Man on the Face of the Earth**Speech**6.0**

In his farewell speech Lou Gehrig reminds fans that, despite developing a terminal disease, his life has been extraordinarily good because he has had the support of family, friends, and fans.

John Kieran	To Lou Gehrig	Poem	5.6
Kieran’s poem expresses his admiration for the way that Gehrig could be counted on both on and off the field.			
Boyz II Men	A Song For Mama	Song	4.4
The lyrics of this song show the band’s appreciation for their mothers’ love and support.			
April Halprin Wayland	Sister/Friend	Poem	4.3
The speaker receives comfort and support from her sister.			
Langston Hughes	Poem	Poem	3.8
The speaker expresses his sorrow over the loss of a friend.			
J. R. R. Tolkien	<i>from</i> The Fellowship of the Ring	Fiction	6.2
As his friends debate the best course of action, Frodo Baggins concludes that in order to keep his friends safe he must continue the quest to destroy the Ring alone. His friend and servant, Sam Gamgee, has other ideas and joins him.			
Hillary Mayell	Hobbit-like Human Ancestor Found	Magazine article	8.3
Scientists have discovered a species of early humans which grew only about three feet tall and lived in Indonesia 18,000 years ago.			
Anne Frank	<i>from</i> The Diary of a Young Girl	Autobiography	6.5
Against the backdrop of the Nazi occupation of Holland, a young Jewish girl relates her innermost thoughts and feelings to her imaginary friend in the form of diary entries.			
Catherine Clarke Fox	Baby Hippo Orphan Finds a Friend	Magazine article	6.8
An orphaned baby hippo is rescued and sent to a sanctuary where he is befriended by a giant grey tortoise.			
Alice Childress	When the Rattlesnake Sounds	Play	5.9
Harriet Tubman and two other women wash clothes to raise money for the Underground Railroad. When one of the women complains that she is afraid and ashamed of her fear, Harriet reminds her that everyone feels fear. Harriet maintains that the only reason to be ashamed of fear is if the fear causes you not to act on your beliefs.			

UNIT 4: Who influences us and how do they do so?

Samuel Brook Douglas **The Day I Ran With
Lance Armstrong** Magazine article **6.9**

A boy's encounter with his idol, cyclist Lance Armstrong, inspires him to keep pursuing his cycling dreams.

McClain J. and
Angela R. **Ice Cube—Actor/Musician** Interview **5.8**

Ice Cube relates how John Singleton helped him believe that he could write movies, and how the influence of his father and brother helped him navigate the pitfalls of growing up in South Central Los Angeles.

Douglas Holgate **Third Down and Forever**..... Graphic novel **6.1**

Shaun is a football player and aspiring artist, but his father doesn't believe he can make a living with his art. Shawn's father wants him to take over the family business. Shaun's friend Simon helps him work up the courage to tell his father that he wants to go to art school.

Kevin Took, MD **Dealing With Peer
Pressure** Magazine article **6.3**

The article explains the positive and negative effects of peer pressure and details strategies for resisting negative peer pressure.

Joseph Bruchac **Thanking the Birds** Essay **6.0**

An Apache man happens upon some boys wantonly killing small birds. He uses this situation as an opportunity to teach the boys a lesson about their culture and their relationship to the land.

Karyn Wight,
Kenza Guessous, and
Madia Campagna **Whose Reality Are We
Talking About?**..... Magazine article **7.3**

Teenagers' letters deal with the unrealistic body images and stereotypes implicit in reality TV shows.

Bobbi Katz **A Gold Miner's Tale** Poem **6.1**

In this poem a prospector tells of his failures in the gold rush, how he finally stopped rushing after gold flakes, and how he became a successful businessman by selling long underwear to gold rushers.

Shel Silverstein **Jimmy Jet and His TV Set** Poem **4.9**

Jimmy Jet watches so much television that he actually becomes a television set.

Graham Salisbury **Waiting for the War** Short story **5.7**

During World War II, two Hawaiian boys acquire a horse that is difficult to tame. A homesick young Texan soldier who is waiting to ship out to combat duty in the Pacific shows the boys how to manage the horse. Through their encounter with the soldier, the boys achieve a greater understanding of and empathy for the soldiers and sailors stationed around them.

Elizabeth Wong **The Struggle to Be an All-American Girl**..... Autobiography **7.1**

A Chinese-American girl relates her struggle to be more American and her eventual regret that she did not become better acquainted with her Chinese heritage.

Cynthia Rylant **A Crush**..... Short story **6.4**

A mentally handicapped man develops a crush on a woman he knows only from a distance. Though he never speaks to her, his anonymous bouquets of flowers have a surprising impact on her, and even on her boss.

Christine M. Hill **R. L. Stine**..... Biography **6.9**

This selection is a brief biography of prolific children's literature author R. L. Stine, the creator of *Goosebumps*.

Course 2 Book 2

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The following annotated list contains the estimated reading level of each selection calculated according to the Dale-Chall formula. It also provides clues to the content of each selection and how it ties into the Big Question of each unit.

As guides in determining the students' ability to deal with specific selections, teachers are urged to consider not only the Dale-Chall score but also the genre and the area of the students' interest and experience.

	Dale-Chall Reading Score
Unit 5: Is progress always good?	
Rodman Philbrick The Last Book in the Universe.... Short story	6.6
In a lawless, bookless future a young man befriends the only writer he's ever met. When his friend is killed by gangsters, the young man carries on the writer's project of asking the big questions and recording what he sees and hears.	
	B. B. King Looks Back at 80 Years of Blues..... Magazine article
	6.2
Blues legend B. B. King reflects on his remarkable life and the changing audience for the blues.	
Sarah Ives Can Waves Make Electricity? Magazine article	6.3
This article presents an overview of emerging wave energy technology, including possible benefits and potential economic and environmental risks.	
Maureen Crane Wartski Rescue in the Rain..... Short story	6.4
A new boy in a rural North Carolina town falls down an abandoned mineshaft while trying to rescue his dog. He is rescued by two local boys who happen by.	
Ben Shannon Short Circuit Graphic novel	7.3
When his cousin Nao comes to visit him in Tokyo, Masa realizes that he has become overly dependent on gadgets and technology.	
S. McDonagh A Micro-Dose of Your Own Medicine Magazine article	6.8
Scientists are developing a dime-sized implant which can deliver medicine over a period of up to five months.	
Jane Merchant Flight Plan..... Poem	6.2
The speaker expresses the desire to fly helicopters, which may not be the fastest or most spectacular aircraft, but have the advantage of being able to hover, which makes them indispensable in rescue operations.	

James Thurber **The Night the Bed Fell**..... Short story**6.8**
This James Thurber classic is a humorous story about a series of mishaps and misunderstandings that befall a family in the middle of the night.

Amy Tan **Fish Cheeks** Short story**6.7**
A Chinese-American girl has a crush on a boy and longs to be more American, but her mother reminds her not to forget or be ashamed of her heritage.

Peggy Thomas **Grinner: A Face from
the Past** Book Excerpt **7.8**
Anthropologists help bring the past back to life by reconstructing the faces of people who died hundreds, thousands, or even millions of years ago.

Rose Inerra **The Puzzle of Pan Am
Flight 103**..... Magazine article**6.3**
Investigators solve the mystery of the December 1988 plane crash by collecting and assembling four million pieces of the doomed aircraft.

Vince Gotera **Beetle on a String** Poem **6.5**
The poet relates his childhood experience of catching insects and tethering them to his dresser, and he wonders uneasily who has hold of his string.

David Escobar Galindo **A Short Story** Poem **5.6**
The poet likens the ant's ability to carry many times its own body weight to our own ability to think, imagine, and dream.

The Dixie Chicks **Travelin' Soldier** Song **5.0**
A girl meets a soldier in the café where she works. They fall in love, but the soldier is killed in Vietnam before he can return.

Ehud Ben-Ezer **Hosni the Dreamer** Folktale **6.4**
When a shepherd uses his pay to purchase a verse rather than material goods he is laughed at and teased by his companions, but the content of the verse saves his life and unites him with his future bride.

Emily Sohn **It's a Small E-mail World
After All** Magazine article **6.7**
Researchers have discovered that a chain of forwarded e-mail messages can reach nearly any user in the world in five to seven links. The fastest and most successful chains consist of acquaintances rather than close friends.

Shonto Begay **Darkness at Noon** Short story **5.7**
A Native American boy learns a greater appreciation for the sun and for tribal magic when the sun vanishes during an eclipse.

Too Many Mummies? Magazine article6.9
A Peruvian museum is running out of space in which to store and preserve Inca mummies unearthed during construction, forcing road construction crews to consider a detour under an Inca cemetery.

Sameeneh Shirazie **GrandmotherPoem5.5**
When the speaker asks her grandmother how she feels, the depth and honesty of the answer causes the speaker to realize how much she takes the people around her for granted.

Pat Mora **In the Blood.....Poem4.8**
The speaker comments on the special connection between grandparent and grandchild.

Naomi Shihab Nye **Supple Cord.....Poem5.4**
Two siblings use a piece of cord as a tangible symbol of their connection.

Jane Yolen **Once a Good Man.....Folktale4.8**
In this parable, a good man is rewarded by the Lord with a glimpse of Heaven and Hell, and he finds that they are nearly identical. In both places people are lined up at a banquet where they are prevented from feeding themselves. In Heaven, however, each person feeds his or her neighbor.

Unit 7: What makes you tick?

Gloria Gonzalez **The Boy with Yellow EyesShort story 7.0**
A bully saves a bookish young man and learns the value of reading when the two stumble across a Nazi spy.

Stephen James
O'Meara **Walk This Way Magazine article 7.0**
Researchers at M. I. T. have discovered the secret of how some insects are able to walk on water.

Gary Soto **Ode to Weight LiftingPoem5.8**
A twelve year old boy lifts weights to build a stronger body and greater self-esteem.

Samantha Smith **Look Around and See
Only FriendsSpeech 7.0**
A ten year old girl advocates youth exchanges as an instrument for creating a more peaceful future.

Emily Sohn **Roller Coaster Thrills Magazine article 7.3**
Roller coasters provide thrills and a socially acceptable forum for releasing stress. Scientists believe that some of the desire for new and extreme experiences may be genetic.

Alec Zobrahe **Skate Park**..... Graphic novel**6.6**

A friendship develops between Isabell, a jock, and David, a brain. She saves him from bullies. He helps her with the application to a skateboarding competition. She teaches him to ride a bike. But Isabell realizes she's gone too far when she asks David to write an essay for her.

T. S. Eliot **Macavity: The Mystery Cat**.....Poem**6.7**

The poet uses personification to poke fun at the mischievous nature of cats and the tendency of humans to assign responsibility for bad deeds to someone else.

Allen B. Ury **Survival of the Fittest** Short story**6.9**

When Dale Chaffin unwillingly accompanies his uncle on a deer hunting expedition, they encounter an alien race of sport hunters who use the same justification for killing humans as Dale's uncle uses for killing deer.

Carole Boston

Weatherford **The Contralto**Poem**6.0**

A poetic tribute to the courage of singer Marian Anderson, who sang on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial when she was barred from singing in a Washington D. C. concert hall because of her race.

Luis Alberto

Ambroggio **Learning English**.....Poem **7.0**

This poem deals with the way that identity is shaped by language and culture, and the difficulty of expressing one's feelings in a foreign language.

Robert Winston **What Makes Me Me?**..... Essay**6.3**

This selection contains a basic personality test and discusses introversion and extroversion as well as The Big Five personality dimensions used by psychologists to classify different personality types.

Emily Sohn

**Worry Seems to Shorten
a Timid Rat's Life**..... Magazine article **7.2**

Researchers have found that some laboratory rats are more curious than others and that timid rats produce more of a stress hormone called corticosterone in stressful situations than more adventurous rats do. This discovery may help explain why the more adventurous rats tend to live longer.

Mark Rafenstein

Laugh Magazine article **7.4**

Laughter has many physical and psychological benefits, and a sense of humor is a sign of good mental health. This selection talks about several benefits of laughter and about the misuse of humor.

Unit 8: What is a community?

Sarah Ives **Exotic Pets Run Wild
in Florida** Magazine article **7.3**

Some people release their exotic pets into the wild when they become too large or unmanageable. In Florida these released pets and their offspring are jeopardizing the ecosystem of the Everglades.

Kristina B. **Judging Adam** Essay **6.7**

On a volunteer mission in Appalachia the author learns the danger of judging others too quickly when she meets a man truly devoted to his community.

Martin J. Hamer **The Mountain** Short story **6.3**

Two African-American boys come face to face with societal prejudice when they are wrongfully accused of robbing a woman on the subway.

Snap, Crackle Magazine article **7.7**

Some creatures like wasps and snapping shrimp exhibit communal behaviors that protect their group.

Sarah Ives **Cricket Lollipops? More
People Are Eating Bugs** Magazine article **6.6**

In many cultures around the world, insects are a normal part of the diet. Though most insect consumption in this country is accidental, scientists say it might be better for the environment if we ate more insects and fewer large mammals.

Jeanette Ingold **Moving On** Short story **6.5**

A sixteen year old girl from Dallas learns that she's more similar to her family's African-American cleaning woman in many ways than she is to her own cousin.

Jan Klinkbeil **Finding a Way** Graphic novel **6.3**

Julie is worried she won't get into the right magnet school until she learns to apply the lessons she learns in Tae Kwon Do to her studies.

Bruce Kirkland **Movie Review:
March of the Penguins**.....Newspaper article **7.7**

Emperor penguins work as a community to protect their eggs from cold and predators and to acquire food for the hatchlings.

Pat Mora **Fences** Poem **5.1**

The poet explores the way that fences create both a physical and a psychological barrier between people.

Janet S. Wong **Neighbors**.....Poem**5.5**

Now that most markets are outside of the community, an opportunity to get to know one's neighbors is lost. The poet explores how car trips rob us of the chance to interact while walking.

Hanan Mikháil *from the Diary of an*
Áshrawi **Almost-Four-Year Old**.....Poem**5.6**

As the speaker adjusts to the loss of an eye to gunfire, she considers the fate of victims even younger than herself.

Baba Wagué Diakité **The Magic Gourd**.....Folktale**6.8**

The chameleon rewards Brother Rabbit for rescuing him with a magic gourd that fills with whatever he desires on command. A greedy king steals the gourd, but Brother Rabbit manages to get it back with the chameleon's help. The king learns kindness and generosity when he realizes that Brother Rabbit has left the king's food and gold behind.

Martin F. Kohn **Mosaic Youth Theatre**
 of Detroit.....Newspaper article **7.2**

The weeklong residency program of Mosaic Youth Theatre helps teach students about theater, teamwork, and making friends.

Debra Pickett and **Retracing Emmett**
Carneil Griffin **Till's Steps**.....Newspaper article **7.4**

A new high school graduate relates his experiences and perceptions, both good and bad, of his trip to the Mississippi town where Emmett Till was killed.

Course 3 Book 1

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The following annotated list contains the estimated reading level of each selection calculated according to the Dale-Chall formula. It also provides clues to the content of each selection and how it ties into the Big Question of each unit.

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	Dale-Chall Reading Score
Unit 1: Reading: What's in it for you?	
Seth Green I Absolutely Did Not Fit In Essay	5.5
Seth Green, a popular young actor, talks about his school days and the isolation he felt because he didn't fit in. He goes on to describe how he overcame his problem: he found a good friend who understood and accepted him.	
Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Hunting Rattlesnakes Nonfiction	6.2
The author describes a trip she took with a herpetologist, what she learned about snakes, and the sense of achievement she felt when she was able to overcome her fear of reptiles.	
Nikki Grimes 42nd Street Library Poem	5.1
The speaker feels the same reverence and awe when she enters a library that she feels when she enters a church.	
Manjush Dasgupta Companion Poem	5.5
The speaker comes to realize that books can be companions when no one else is around.	
Naomi Shihab Nye The List Poem	6.5
The speaker reminds us that part of the joy of reading is to discover things we are curious about: there's more to be read than the books we think we should read.	
Steven Maxwell My Robot Graphic novel	6.4
A boy who is a reluctant reader visits his scientist uncle and learns that knowledge of the classics can help a person deal with many problems, even a runaway robot.	
Jason Urbanus Bodies of Pompeii Magazine article	7.5
Archaeologists have learned much about the people of Pompeii from the things they carried with them as they fled the red-hot lava, ash, and debris that covered their city following the eruption of Mt. Vesuvius.	

Jacqueline Woodson **from Maizon at Blue Hill** Fiction **6.2**

An African-American girl away at boarding school faces the isolation of not fitting in with her peers. She connects with the teacher over one of her favorite books and realizes that there are many more books to which she has not yet been exposed.

Linda Alvarado **Jumping Over Boundaries** Magazine article **6.4**

When a mother challenges the system because her daughter is not allowed to participate in a high jump competition, they both win. This sets the daughter on a winning track to corporate America. Linda Alvarado is now a successful building contractor and baseball team owner.

Norton Juster **Milo Conducts the Dawn** Fantasy **6.4**

In this fantasy, an orchestra ushers in the dawn and draws the day to a close. One morning Milo neglects to wake the conductor so that he, Milo, can conduct the orchestra. How hard can it be? The results are predictable.

Games to Take Your

Breath Away News story **7.4**

Researchers in Ireland have developed a video game interface based on breathing. They are using the interface to create games that encourage deep breathing, which can help children and other patients relax while confined to hospital beds.

Tamara Orr **A Simple Gift, A Grand Notion...** Biography **6.3**

The Wright brothers' father brings them a small flying toy, which captivates their imaginations and motivates them to build their first model flying machines.

Alan Barlow **My Poems** Poem **5.0**

In this poem, a Native American speaker reflects on his connections with the natural world.

Muhammad al-Ghuzzi **The Pen** Poem **8.0**

In a poem by a Tunisian poet, the speaker reflects on how words and writing can help us capture the beauty of the world.

Eve Merriam **Reply to the Question:
"How Can You Become a Poet?"** Poem **5.4**

The speaker answers the question by pointing out that we can recreate the essence of things past through poetry.

Unit 2: Which is more important—the journey or the destination?

Walter Dean Myers **The Game** Short story **5.5**

A coach helps his basketball team to victory by helping them focus on working hard, rather than on the high-stakes championship.

Tornado!..... Magazine article **6.5**

Storm chasers face danger and endure long stretches of boredom in order to help explain how and why tornadoes are generated.

Jim Murphy **Drumbeats and Bullets**..... Nonfiction **6.7**

The author explains how Civil War drummer boys were crucial to battlefield communication and tactics. A drummer was expected to march unarmed into battle and to help maintain order among his unit.

Pat Mora **Tomás Rivera**..... Poem **6.5**

The speaker remembers Tomás Rivera, who rose from working as a migrant laborer to becoming an author, poet, educator, activist, and chancellor of the University of California, Riverside.

Jane O. Wayne **By Accident**..... Poem **5.1**

The message in this poem is that skin color is not a consideration when you reach out with love to help an injured child.

Sally Deneen **A Dog with Heart**..... Magazine article **7.4**

Heartworm could have claimed Keegan’s life, but a concerned family nurses him to health. Keegan, the golden retriever, becomes a therapy dog and brings “nursing care” and companionship to many seniors.

Bizet Kizcorn **The Little Old House
in Allermo** Graphic novel **7.6**

A student tries to get a picture of her grandmother’s childhood home in Italy only to find that it has been torn down and replaced by a tire shop. However, what she learns about the village and the country brings her closer to her grandmother than ever.

**Soap Box Derby Puts Kids’
Creativity, Racing Skills
‘to the Test’** Magazine article **6.6**

This article describes how a girl works with her grandfather for six months to build a winning soap box cart.

Jenny Leading Cloud **The End of the World**.....Folktale**6.0**

A Native American woman relates a legend about the end of the world. An old woman weaves a blanket; and when the blanket is finished, the world will end. Each time she looks away, her dog pulls out the woven portion. Thus the blanket is never finished and the world goes on.

Eva Chen **Smoke Signals**..... Magazine article **7.1**

Young people share stories about how they started smoking and how much they regret it. Scientists and researchers share their knowledge of the long- and short-term effects of tobacco smoking.

Joni Mitchell **Number One**..... Song**5.3**

The singer reminds us that what we should admire about champions is not their success but the hard work and discipline that got them where they are.

Aurand Harris **Treasure Island**..... Play**6.1**

Two scenes that take place in the Admiral Ben Bow Inn tell the story of how the treasure map falls into the hands of those who are searching for Treasure Island.

UNIT 3: When is the price too high?

Shari Graydon **Branded Beauty**..... Nonfiction **7.0**

Many teens seem to believe that the name brands on their clothing define who they are. The extremes to which some teens are willing to go to wear this type of clothing are alarming.

René Saldaña, Jr. **Chuy's Beginnings**..... Short story**6.4**

Chuy's streetwise language and behavior force a teacher to bring him to the principal's office. Although the principal takes his side, Chuy finds little satisfaction in being let off the hook when he realizes the dire consequences of his misbehavior.

Kristin Baird Rattini **I Escaped the Taliban** Magazine article**6.5**

A young girl tells her story of escape from Afghanistan to Iran and her family's eventual settlement in the United States. She most values the freedom to go to school and to practice her religion.

Graham Salisbury **The Ravine** Short story**6.4**

A fifteen-year-old boy faces his fears and pressure from his peers. His decision not to join in a death-defying leap into the ravine brings him one step closer to responsible adulthood.

John Roach and Sarah Ives **Military Tests May Harm Whales, Study Says.. Magazine article 7.7**

The authors explain that military tests using sonar appear to be causing the deaths of whales in the waters near the Canary Islands. The courts have ordered the military to work with scientists to solve this problem.

Douglas Holgate **Ragnar’s Rock..... Graphic novel6.3**

Loki presents Ragnar with the means to achieve all that he has ever wanted. Ragnar eagerly jumps at the chance despite being warned that all his actions have consequences. After he achieves all his life’s dreams, he realizes all he had to give up.

Hope Anita Smith **Little Man.....Poem5.7**

A big brother anxious for some privacy tries to keep his little brother out of the room they share, but Mama steps in and reminds him that he’s not enough of a man to require so much privacy.

Julius Thompson **To Malcolm X.....Poem5.0**

Malcolm X knew he was marked for death. Before his assassination, he came to realize that all men are brothers.

Gary Soto **The Raiders Jacket..... Short story6.7**

Lovestruck Lorena believes she has lost her boyfriend Eddie’s jacket and sacrifices a friendship and a birthday gift for her mother to buy a replacement. She doesn’t realize that the jacket has been returned to Eddie. Lorena’s sacrifices are in vain, and Eddie loses interest in her.

W. W. Jacobs and Harriet Dexter **The Monkey’s Paw..... Play6.4**

Mr. and Mrs. White and their adult son Herbert are intrigued by the monkey’s paw that their visitor, Sergeant-Major Morris, has brought back from India. They learn that whoever owns the monkey’s paw may have three wishes—but previous owners have all faced tragedy. Nevertheless, the Whites make a series of wishes that cost them their son’s life and their peace of mind.

UNIT 4: What do you do when you don’t know what to do?

Mark Stewart **Honor Thy Father..... Biography6.8**

This excerpt from a biography of Dale Earnhardt Jr. describes how Dale came to grips with his father’s death.

Gary Paulsen **from Hatchet Fiction6.0**

Brian is on his first trip to spend summer vacation with his dad in the oil fields of Canada after his parents’ divorce. Traveling in a small two-person plane, Brian is forced to take over the controls after the pilot has a heart attack and lands the plane successfully.

- Robert Gardner **Science & Crime** Nonfiction **7.6**
 A criminalist uses scientific evidence to explain that a hunter was killed by a ricocheting bullet, not by a fellow hunter.
- Gail Hennessey **Dolphin Rescue** Magazine article **8.6**
 Dolphins washed away from their aquarium during hurricane Katrina are found together in the Gulf of Mexico, where they are rescued and brought to a temporary aquarium.
- Jerzy Drozd and Sara Turner **The Calamity Kids in: The Time Loop Locket** Graphic novel **7.0**
 Amy is anxious to invite Reed, an older boy, to the Sadie Hawkins Dance. She finds a mysterious time locket in her room. When she wishes she were older, Amys by the dozen appear and set off in pursuit of Reed. The only solution is to get the locket closed again!
- Hope Anita Smith **History Repeating (Almost)** Poem **5.3**
 A child in conflict with her mother walks out, but, remembering the look on her mother's face when her father left, the child returns.
- Lee Roddy **Terror in the Night** Historical fiction **6.4**
 Emily, a twelve-year-old from Illinois, is visiting relatives in the South shortly after the end of the Civil War. When Union soldiers storm the plantation in order to burn and plunder, Emily confronts them, delaying them until help arrives and the soldiers are forced to flee.
- Eleanor Farjeon **There Isn't Time** Poem **5.7**
 There's not enough time to see and do everything, to meet and know all the people.
- Michael Specter **Do Fingerprints Lie?** Magazine article **8.0**
 According to this article, fingerprint identification is not always correct.
- Kathleen Arnott **The Five Little Foxes and The Tiger** Folktale **5.4**
 In this animal folktale, a clever mother fox outwits a hungry tiger, saves her five little ones, and amazes her husband.
- Sandra Lee Smith **The Quality of Life: Your Choice to Be Free** Nonfiction **6.3**
 A young woman determined to improve her surroundings, formulates a plan and seeks help. She demonstrates that a person can determine the quality of his or her life by becoming actively involved.

Robert C. Hayden **Angella D. Ferguson** Biography **7.7**
Dr. Angella Ferguson focused on the crisis patterns of sickle cell anemia and developed ways to lessen the severity of sickle cell's effects.

Karen Fanning **Brazilian Program Sends
Kids to School, Not Work...** Magazine article **7.1**
Tatiana and thousands of other Brazilian children now spend their time in school rather than in toxic dumps, thanks to government programs.

Elise O'Shaughnessy **Staying Calm** Magazine article **5.9**
Victoria Kelly, deputy director of the rail system connecting New Jersey and New York City, saved hundreds of lives by alerting train masters to the crisis on September 11, 2001, and seeing that all passengers were evacuated safely from the trains.

Course 3 Book 2

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	Dale-Chall Reading Score
Unit 5: How do you stay true to yourself?	
Nikki Grimes	
<i>from</i> Bronx Masquerade	
ZorroPoem	7.5
Diondra Jordan Essay	6.3
Devon Hope Essay	6.5
Bronx MasqueradePoem	7.3
When students in a high school English class share their poetry at open mike sessions, they learn more about themselves than they do about poetry.	
Aline Alexander	
Newman	
5 Clever Survivors: The Extraordinary Ways Animals Heal Themselves.. Magazine article	7.7
This article describes some of the unique ways animals are able to heal themselves.	
Lucy Jane Bledsoe	
Rough Touch Short story	6.1
A young girl's ambition is to play football with the boys. Given the chance, she proves that she is able to hold her own in the game.	
Kathi Appelt	
Coach's SonPoem	6.2
The speaker in the poem is a coach's son who describes the disconnect between the expectation of others and the way he sees himself.	
Liz Lochhead	
Poem for My SisterPoem	5.8
An older sister wants her young sibling to find her own way in life. The speaker in the poem uses the image of finding shoes that fit her rather than someone else.	
Catherine Hahn	
No Cheers for Me Graphic novel	6.1
A girl who has always done everything with her best friend finally makes her own decision about what she wants—even at the risk of losing her friend.	

Michael Logan	My Look Says Nothing About Who I Am.....	Essay	7.4
A young man of mixed race describes his satisfaction in having an appearance that is not easily pigeonholed.			
Nicole Rivera	Why Are People Staring at Me?.....	Essay	4.9
A girl of mixed race expresses her annoyance with people who try to assign a racial designation to her and who make judgments about her parents or herself.			
Dana Mathias	Being Indian.....	Poem	4.6
A teenage Native American reflects on what it means to be Indian.			
Adi Givati	Thoughts of the Different	Poem	7.1
A teen explains why he wants to be different.			
Sandra and Harry Choron	9 Drawbacks to Being Popular	Essay	7.3
This article stresses the danger of losing one’s best self in order to be popular.			
Willem Winkelman, as told to Rachel Buchholz	Keep Staring, I Might Do a Trick!	Magazine article	6.4
A little person describes some of the indignities to which he is subjected by ignorant people. He also provides some insight into his own feelings.			
Jennifer L. Holm	Follow the Water	Short story	6.4
This sci-fi story presents a less-than-ideal picture of what life on Mars might really be like. It centers on a teenager whose scientist parents are so taken up with their scientific projects that they don’t understand their daughter’s desire to return to Earth to visit her ailing grandmother.			

Unit 6: How do you keep from giving up when bad things happen?

Bruce Coville	What’s the Worst That Could Happen?.....	Short story	6.4
A boy does his best to get the attention of a girl in his class. He is overjoyed when she asks him to take a part opposite her in a short skit. However, instead of getting closer to her, he succeeds in embarrassing and injuring himself. When the girl visits him in the hospital accompanied by her boyfriend, he thinks he has hit rock bottom. Then an unexpected surprise makes him feel good again.			

- Randall Robinson **Spring 1954:
Richmond, Virginia** Autobiography **6.8**
This is an account of a boy's reaction to news of the Supreme Court's decision that schools must be desegregated.
- Ben Shannon **Crash Course** Graphic novel **6.5**
A young snowboarder lands in the hospital after a damaging accident. Discouraged, she talks about giving up the sport until she meets an understanding doctor. The doctor provides some models of historical figures who worked through difficulties to continue doing what they most enjoyed.
- Morton Marcus **Blinking** Poem **6.3**
The speaker reflects on loving life so much that one does not want to miss a moment of it. He compares eyelashes to hands applauding the wonder of life.
- William I. Elliott **David** Poem **6.6**
The speaker in the poem vividly remembers his brother as he reflects on their activities together.
- Countee Cullen **Incident** Poem **6.2**
This poem, set in Baltimore in the early twentieth century, recalls the experience of a young African American boy who meets with prejudice from a boy his own age.
- June A. English **Balance** Short story **6.0**
A teenage girl who lives for baseball is severely injured in a freak accident. She undergoes rehab and eventually comes to accept her changed physical capabilities.
- Nancy Fitzgerald **Maximum Pressure** Magazine article **7.7**
This article details the stresses that many teens routinely face and offers some positive suggestions on how to cope with stress.
- Kemba's Story** Essay **5.9**
Kemba, a young girl who has lost her mother, talks about the effects of her loss and her attempts to deal with grief in a positive way.
- Craig Sodaro **Thief of the Nile** Play **5.8**
This play is set in Pharaoh's court where a valuable necklace is missing. A shy servant girl is blamed for the loss by one of the Pharaoh's aides. The Pharaoh himself devises a plan to exonerate the servant and uncover the greed and dishonesty of the aide.

Unit 7: What's worth fighting for? What's not?

Ruth Dorfman **Jackie Robinson, Baseball's
Pathfinder** Biography **7.6**

This article details the way in which Jackie Robinson broke the race barrier in professional baseball.

Kery Murakami **For my 'pen pal'
in Louisiana** Magazine article **7.0**

With the help of personnel at a community center in Seattle, five teens communicate with their counterparts in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, after the devastation of Hurricane Katrina.

René Saldaña, Jr. **The Dive** Short story **6.5**

Melly is envious of the boys jumping from the bridge into the river. But her father, a widower, has forbidden her to jump. Melly brings her problem to her grandmother, who agrees that her granddaughter is old enough to make her own decision. This assurance is enough for Melly, who decides that she does not have to make the dive to prove her maturity.

Naila Moreira **Sleepless at Sea** Magazine article **7.4**

After orcas and dolphins are born, the calves and their mothers stay awake for a month. Then they gradually increase their sleep to normal adult levels. This phenomenon is unique in the animal kingdom.

Emily Sohn **Sleeping Soundly for a
Longer Life** Magazine article **6.3**

A new study has shown that people who have trouble falling asleep or staying asleep are more likely to die sooner than those with normal sleep patterns.

Ernest Lawrence Thayer **Casey at the Bat** Poem **7.1**

Casey was the star batter on the Mudville baseball team. The poem tells the dramatic story of Casey's unbelievable strikeout! The strong rhythm and rhyme of Thayer's poem have made it a perennial favorite.

Linda Sue Park **from A Single Shard** Fiction **6.0**

Tree-ear and Crane-man are friends who often live on the verge of hunger. Tree-ear follows a farmer whose supply of rice is trickling out of its bag onto the road. The farmer, unwilling to stop to gather the rice, gives Tree-ear permission to glean it. Crane-man agrees with Tree-ear that the farmer won't mind who benefits from the spilled rice.

Nikki Grimes **It’s Just a Question**Poem**6.2**
A teacher ignores a student who asks a question about imaginary numbers. The student persists in his question, forcing the teacher to look beyond the wall he’s created around his favorite students.

Jan Klinkbeil **Worth Saving**.....Graphic novel**6.8**
An unselfish young girl gets so involved in important projects that she has little time for friends. Her best friend convinces her that friends matter too, and she doesn’t have to save the world all by herself.

Jim Haskins *from I Have a Dream: The Life
and Words of Martin Luther
King, Jr.* Biography**6.6**
Martin Luther King, Jr. recalls two instances when his father quietly refused to accept discrimination in the segregated South of the early twentieth century.

Jane Yolen **Phoenix Farm**.....Short story**6.0**
A family is burned out of their apartment and relocates to Grandma’s farm. The father has left the family because he had no job. The daughter in the family finds an unusual-looking egg in a nest. She carries the egg with her and watches as it hatches into a beautiful bird and flies away. As the bird leaves, the doorbell rings and Daddy returns. He has found a job in Phoenix and has returned to take care of his family.

Ruth Spencer Johnson **Ida Battles Big Oil** Magazine article **7.6**
Ida Tarbell, a famous writer for McClure’s magazine, told the story of the Standard Oil Company and the techniques they used to force smaller companies out of business. Because of her exposé, Standard Oil became the target of state and federal investigations and was forced to break up into smaller companies.

Unit 8: What is the American Dream?

**The Screamin’ Eagles Help
Students Soar** Historical nonfiction**5.7**
A U.S. soldier who escorted the Little Rock Nine to an Arkansas school during the era of desegregation recalls this experience.

Francisco Jiménez **Forced Out** Autobiography**6.5**
A young Mexican boy recalls how he was picked up by the border patrol and forced to leave the country.

Miranda Hitti **The American Dream:
Happiness, Say Teens** Magazine article**6.8**
This survey shows what the American Dream means to teens.

Barack Obama **Barack Obama’s Keynote Speech**.....Speech**6.6**
In his speech at the Democratic National Convention in 2004, Senator Barack Obama recognizes all the United States has to offer.

Andrea Davis Pinkney **Building Bridges**Short story**6.8**
A young girl who aspires to be an architect wants to take a summer job working on the Brooklyn Bridge, but her grandmother has less than lofty plans for her future.

James Brady **In Step with Wilmer Valderrama** Biography **7.8**
This biographical snippet shows how Valderrama is living the American Dream.

Kagan McLeod **Late Bloom**..... Graphic novel**5.1**
A boy and his wheelchair-bound sister work together to contribute to the family business, as the boy also manages to follow his musical dream.

5 Ways Teens Can Spend Smarter for a Cleaner, Greener Earth Magazine article **7.4**
Teens can help to create and maintain a clean and healthy planet, an important part of the American Dream.

Colin Johnson **Happiness in the Johnson Family**.....Poem**5.6**
A student writes about family, holidays, and love—all part of the American Dream.

Martin Espada **Who Burns for the Perfection of Paper**Poem**6.0**
A lawyer looks back on his job, gluing together legal pads to earn money for school, and comes to appreciate those who do physical work for a living.

Liz Rosenberg **They Are Planning to Cancel the School Milk Program to Fund a Tax Cut for the Middle Class**.....Poem**5.3**
This poem reminds the reader that for some the American Dream is far from reality.

Demi **The Hungry Coat**.....Folktale**6.0**
In this folktale a man teaches his neighbors a lesson about judging from appearances.