

Alternate Eligible Content : Grade Appropriate Text: Options for Selecting and Modifying Text

Alternate Eligible Content
Spring Series 2016



Pennsylvania Training and Technical Assistance Network

Questions during the webinar

For Content :

AlternateAssessment@pattan.net

- Reference : 3/30/2016
- Questions and answers will be posted as an FAQ with the recorded webinar following this presentation

Today's Focus



- Selecting and prioritizing grade appropriate text
- Examining sites that contain modified text
- When needed, considerations for modifying text
- Samples of modifying text across levels of complexity

Selecting and Prioritizing Grade Appropriate Text

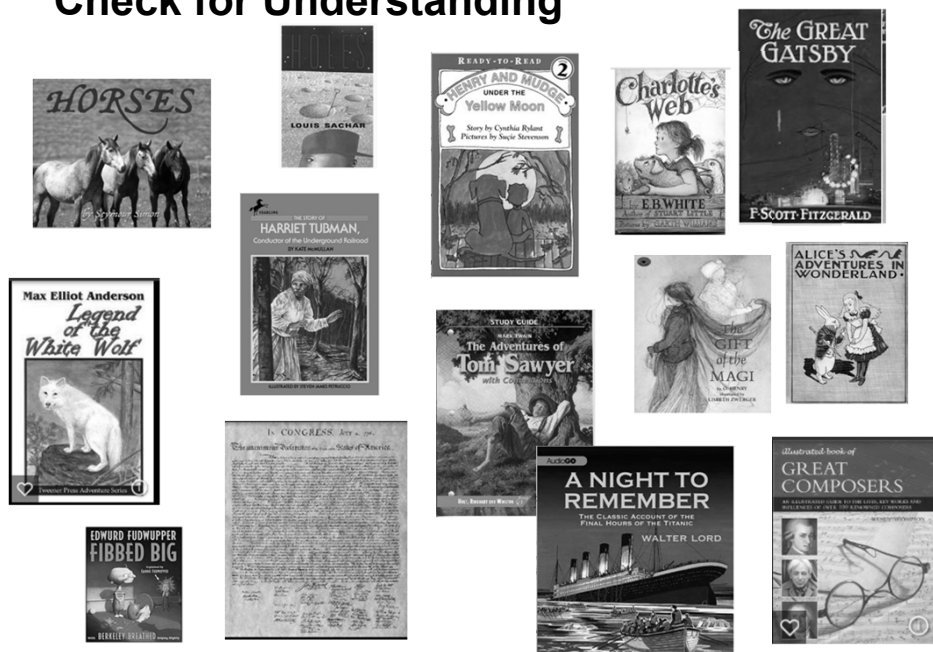


Selecting and Prioritizing

- Text selected **must** reflect the assigned grade level of each student you are assigned through:
 - Content typical for students of the grade age
 - Content typically read by students at this grade



Check for Understanding



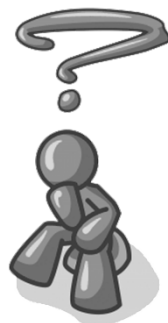
Additional Considerations



- Student interest
- Student background knowledge
- What is the intent and focus of the alternate eligible content I am teaching?

Ask Yourself

- How familiar am I with the alternate eligible content for the grade levels I am assigned?



Sites That Provide Text Already Modified



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Sample Sources of Texts

- Readworks: <http://www.readworks.org/>
- CAST book builder:
<http://bookbuilder.cast.org/>
- International Children's Library:
<http://en.childrenslibrary.org/>
- Text Project: <http://textproject.org/>

Sample Sources of Texts

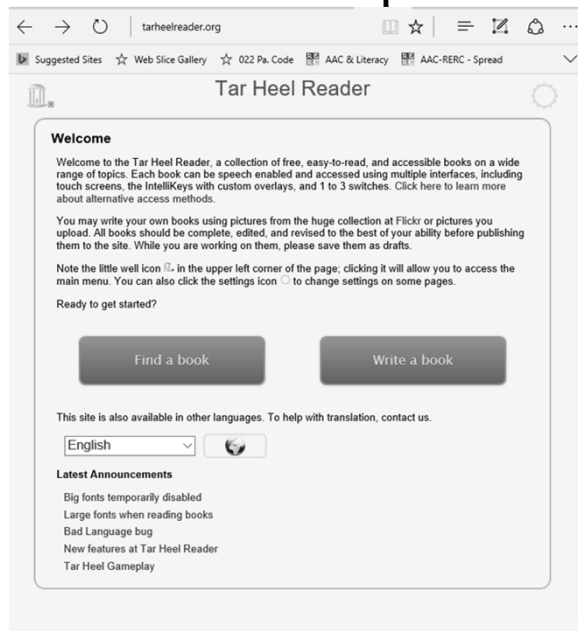
- PDESAS Text Exemplars:
http://static.pdesas.org/content/documents/ELA-Appendix_B-Text-Exemplars-and-Sample-Performance-Tasks.pdf
- News ELA: www.newsela.com
- TarHeel Reader: <http://tarheelreader.org/>

Let's Take a Closer Look

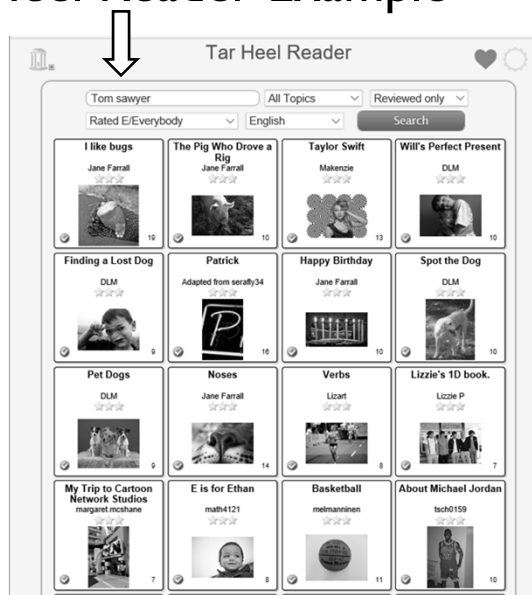


Tar Heel Reader

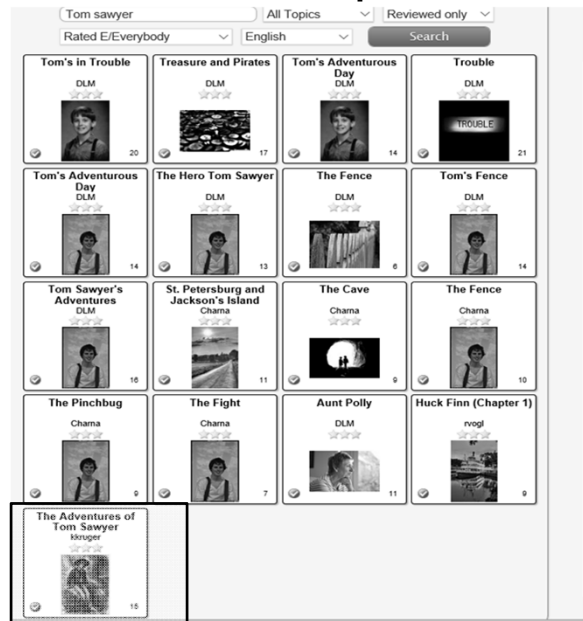
Tar Heel Reader Example



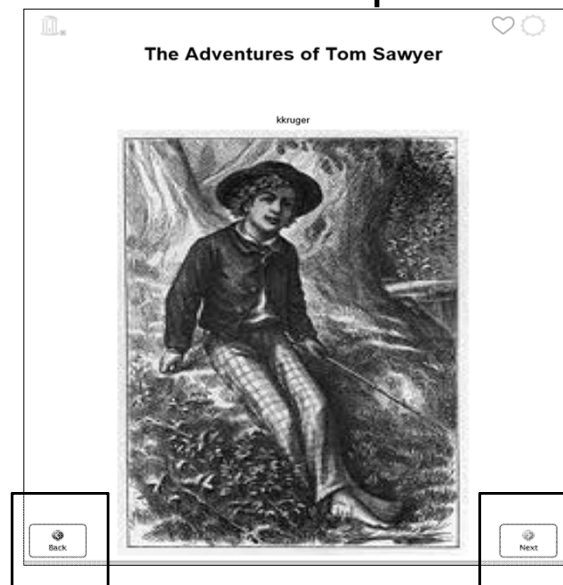
Tar Heel Reader Example



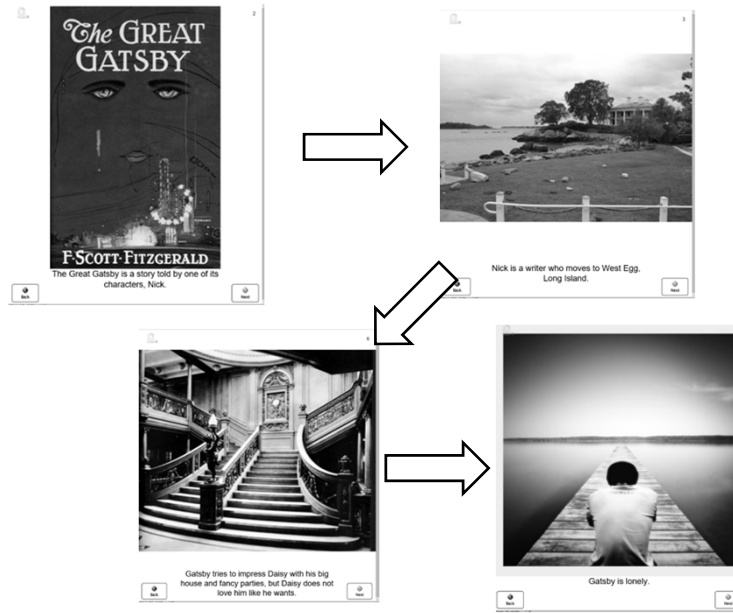
Tar Heel Reader Example



Tar Heel Reader Example



Tar Heel Reader Example



Modifying or Reducing Complexity of Text: Considerations



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Considerations when reducing text complexity

- Less is not always better or a sign of less text complexity
- Vocabulary and language considerations
- Ways to check readability
- Sites that help reduce complexity of text

Vocabulary and Language Considerations

- What vocabulary, receptive and expressive, does the child already know?
- Collaborate with your Speech Language Pathologist (SLP)
- Consider Core Vocabulary

Tips for Collaborating with your SLP



- Assists with identifying language concepts the child already knows and potential barriers to understanding
- Assist with identifying familiar vocabulary that aligns to the selected grade appropriate text
- Identify ways to improve language comprehension of text read aloud
- Supporting text

Core Vocabulary Considerations

- Core vocabulary is:
 - 350-400 words
 - 78-80% of words we use daily in our speech
 - 50 most frequently occurring account to 40-50% of total words

Core Vocabulary Resources



- Core Vocabulary Lists
- Learners Dictionary
- Dolch List
- Fry List

Supporting text

- Considerations for adaptations of text with videos, pictures and objects
 - Identify student symbol knowledge
 - Background knowledge
 - Limited background knowledge may lead you to use videos, actual objects, sound effects, etc.
 - Avoid overuse of pictures
 - Pick the big idea of the sentence

Reducing Text Complexity

Connecting Vocabulary and Readability



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Alternate Eligible Content selected

- Informational Text Grade 4

E04BK1.1.1a

Answer a literal question about a text

E04BK1.1.1c

**Identify details from the text to support
answers to literal or inferential questions**

Sample Text to modify

Sample 4th grade informational text
 Source: IRCMS (NC State University)
 Topic: Hurricanes

Hurricanes are large tropical storms that develop in the oceans of the world. Hurricanes gather heat and energy from the warm ocean water. The heat from these warm currents increases the power of the hurricane. Hurricanes that remain over warm water usually get bigger and stronger, but they weaken once they get over land. Hurricanes are storms that are given names, and a new list of names is created each year. The first hurricane name starts with the letter A, like Ashley, and the names move through the alphabet as more hurricanes form.

<https://www.ncsu.edu/project/lancet/fourth.htm>

Reducing Complexity of Text Grade 4 Example

Original text

- Hurricanes are large tropical storms that develop in the oceans of the world. Hurricanes gather heat and energy from the warm ocean water. The heat from these warm currents increases the power of the hurricane. Hurricanes that remain over warm water usually get bigger and stronger, but they weaken once they get over land. Hurricanes are storms that are given names, and a new list of names is created each year. The first hurricane name starts with the letter A, like Ashley, and the names move through the alphabet as more hurricanes form.

Modified 1

- Hurricanes are large tropical storms that develop in the oceans of the world. Each year, the first hurricane name starts with the letter A like Ashley, and the names move through the alphabet as more hurricanes form. Hurricane clouds move in a circle around a point called the eye, which is the center of the storm.

Modification to demonstrate most complexity of the text

- **Modified text 1:**

Hurricanes are large tropical storms that develop in the oceans of the world. Each year, the first hurricane name starts with the letter A like Ashley, and the names move through the alphabet as more hurricanes form. Hurricane clouds move in a circle around a point called the eye, which is the center of the storm.

- Consider Core Vocabulary
- Consider the complexity of the sentences
- Consider checking readability
- Consider language level

Check for Core Vocabulary

- **Modified text 1:**

Hurricanes are large tropical storms that develop in the oceans of the world. Each year, the first hurricane name starts with the letter A like Ashley, and the names move through the alphabet as more hurricanes form. Hurricane clouds move in a circle around a point called the eye, which is the center of the storm.

- Check core vocabulary lists, as available
- Review the vocabulary that is familiar and frequently used for this student

Check for sentence complexity

- **Modified text 1:**

Hurricanes are large tropical storms that develop in the oceans of the world. Each year, the first hurricane name starts with the letter A like Ashley, and the names move through the alphabet as more hurricanes form. Hurricane clouds move in a circle around a point called the eye, which is the center of the storm.

- Consider the complexity of the sentences used.
- Consider the students current levels of performance

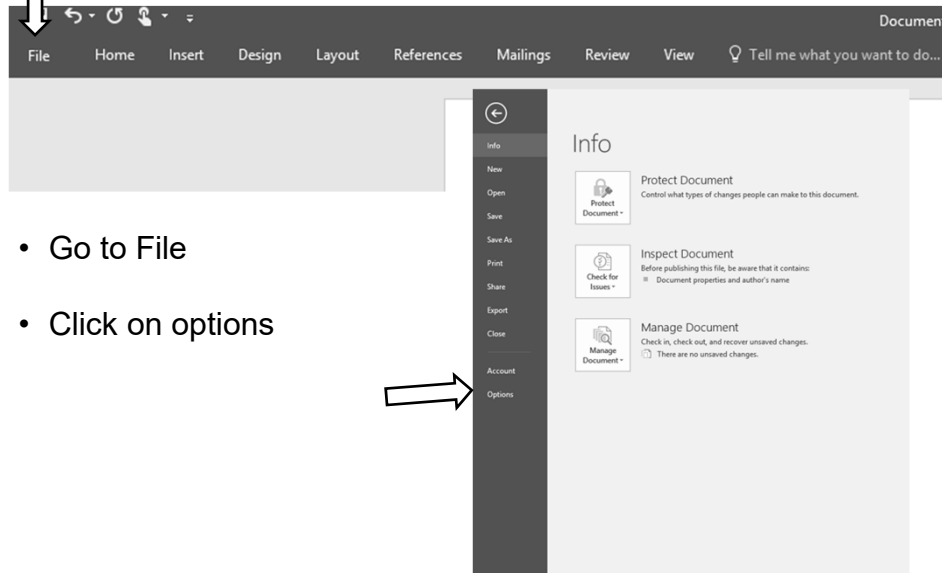
Check Readability of Text

- **Modified text 1**

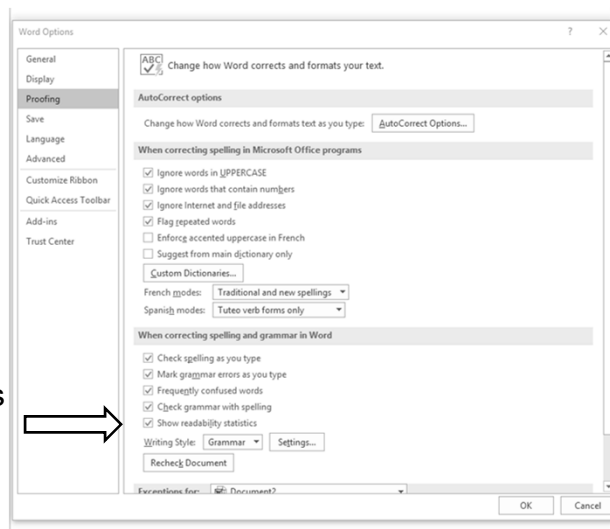
Hurricanes are large tropical storms that develop in the oceans of the world. Each year, the first hurricane name starts with the letter A like Ashley, and the names move through the alphabet as more hurricanes form. Hurricane clouds move in a circle around a point called the eye, which is the center of the storm.

- Now that text is modified, check the 'readability' with digital tools

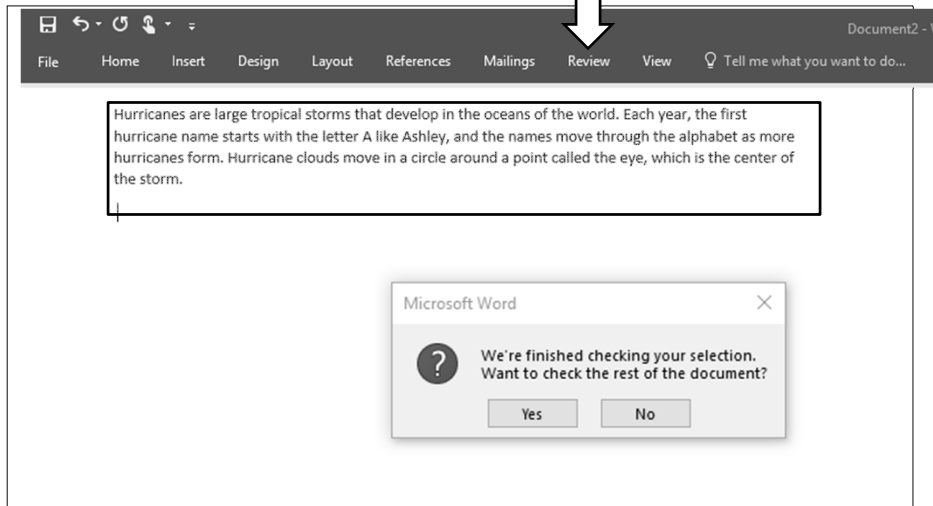
Checking for Readability



Checking for Readability



Checking for Readability



Readability of Modification 1

Hurricanes are large tropical storms that develop in the oceans of the world. Each year, the first hurricane name starts with the letter A like Ashley, and the names move through the alphabet as more hurricanes form. Hurricane clouds move in a circle around a point called the eye, which is the center of the storm.

| Readability Statistics | | ? | × |
|----------------------------|------|----|---|
| Counts | | | |
| Words | 56 | | |
| Characters | 260 | | |
| Paragraphs | 1 | | |
| Sentences | 3 | | |
| Averages | | | |
| Sentences per Paragraph | 3.0 | | |
| Words per Sentence | 18.6 | | |
| Characters per Word | 4.5 | | |
| Readability | | | |
| Flesch Reading Ease | 73.0 | | |
| Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level | 7.7 | | |
| | | OK | |

Considerations to change modification

- Core Vocabulary
- Complexity of sentences
- Language concepts



- **Modified text 1:**

Hurricanes are large tropical storms that develop in the oceans of the world. Each year, the first hurricane name starts with the letter A like Ashley, and the names move through the alphabet as more hurricanes form. Hurricane clouds move in a circle around a point called the eye, which is the center of the storm.

Sample vocabulary to consider:

Hurricane
Tropical
Develop
Oceans
World
Alphabet
Move
Clouds
Circle
Point
Eye
Center

AN ENCYCLOPEDIA
BRITANNICA COMPANY

Google

Ask the Editor Word of the Day Quizzes Core Vocabulary Most Popular My Saved Words **LOG IN**

Learner's Dictionary

3,000 Core Vocabulary Words

Our editors have identified 3,000 English words that are most important for Learners to know. Study this list to improve your vocabulary.

FEATURED TOPICS

- **[NEW!] Sports vocabulary**: Words for popular American sports
- **[NEW!] Air Travel**: Useful words for traveling on airplanes and through airports
- **The Environment**: Vocabulary related to environmental science and climate change
- **Family members**: Relatives and other important people
- **Jobs/Professions**: Types of jobs and careers
- **Legal English**: Vocabulary for court trials and other legal proceedings
- **Words for emotions**: Different feelings that people have
- **Parts of your body**: External parts of the human body
- **Noncount nouns**: Nouns that cannot be counted or be plural
- **Time adverbs**: Words that tell when and how often
- **Health**: Words for common medical problems
- **Personality types**: Adjectives that describe behavior and personality
- **Periods of time**: Long and short amounts of time
- **Employment**: Words for work in a company
- **Academic writing**: About the structure and content of academic writing
- **College and university life**: Vocabulary for college and university students
- **Economics**: Concepts in economics

Weather: Describing the weather

BROWSE THE FULL LIST ALPHABETICALLY

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

Merriam-Webster
LearnersDictionary.com

It's gone. [Undo](#)
What was wrong with this ad?
☐ Irrelevant
☐ Inappropriate
☐ Repetitive

Friskies
CURIOUS COMBINATIONS.
CHOSEN BY CATS.
SEE ALL 4 CONCOCTIONS

ASK THE EDITOR
Why is the plural of fish not fishes?
[See the answer »](#)

LEARNER'S QUIZZES
Vocabulary Quiz
Test your word power
[Take the Quiz »](#)

Name That Thing
Take our visual quiz
[Test Your Knowledge »](#)

LEARNER'S WORD OF THE DAY
patch up
: to give quick and usually temporary medical treatment to (someone or something)
[Learn More »](#)

3,000 Core Vocabulary Words

Weather

Next »

- barometer
- blizzard
- breezy
- chilly
- clear
- cloudy
- cold front
- flurries
- fog
- forecast
- forecast
- global warming
- gust
- hail
- hazy
- heat
- high-pressure
- humid
- humidity
- **hurricane**
- lightning
- muggy
- overcast
- pollution
- pour
- precipitation

hurricane

1 ENTRIES FOUND:

hurricane (noun)

hurricane /ˈhɜːrəˌkeɪn/ Brit /ˈhʌrəkən/ Save

noun

plural **hurricanes**

Learner's definition of HURRICANE

[count]

: an extremely large, powerful, and destructive storm with very strong winds that occurs especially in the western part of the Atlantic Ocean

Comments & Questions

What made you want to look up *hurricane*? Include any comments and questions you have about this word.

Comments Community Login

Recommend 6 Sort by Best

Start the discussion...

Readability of Modification 1

- **Modification 1 (revised)**

Hurricanes are large storms that start in the oceans of the world. Each year, the first hurricane name starts with the letter A like Ann. Each hurricane name uses a different letter. Hurricanes have an eye, which is the center of the storm.

Readability of Modification 1 (revised)

Hurricanes are large storms that start in the oceans of the world. Each year, the first hurricane name starts with the letter A like Anne. Each hurricane name uses a different letter. Hurricanes have an eye, which is the center of the storm.

| Readability Statistics | |
|----------------------------|------|
| Counts | |
| Words | 43 |
| Characters | 199 |
| Paragraphs | 1 |
| Sentences | 4 |
| Averages | |
| Sentences per Paragraph | 4.0 |
| Words per Sentence | 10.7 |
| Characters per Word | 4.4 |
| Readability | |
| Flesch Reading Ease | 81.8 |
| Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level | 4.5 |
| OK | |

Modification of text to mid complexity

• **Modification 2**

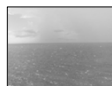
Big storms start in oceans. Each year, the first big storm's name starts with the letter A like Ann. Each big storm name uses a different letter. Big storms are called hurricanes. They are special because they have a center.

- Core Vocabulary
- Sentence complexity
- Language Concepts
- Readability
- Add Visuals/Objects

Modification of text to mid complexity

• Modification 2 : Add Visuals/Objects

Big storms start in oceans.



Each year, the first big storm's name starts with the letter A like Ann.

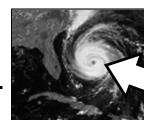
Each big storm name uses a different letter.



Big storms are called hurricanes.



They are special because they have a center.



Readability of Modification 2

Big storms start in oceans. Each year, the first big storm's name starts with the letter A like Anne. Each big storm name uses a different letter. Big storms are called hurricanes. They are special because they have a center.

| | |
|----------------------------|------|
| Counts | |
| Words | 40 |
| Characters | 186 |
| Paragraphs | 1 |
| Sentences | 5 |
| Averages | |
| Sentences per Paragraph | 5.0 |
| Words per Sentence | 8.0 |
| Characters per Word | 4.5 |
| Readability | |
| Flesch Reading Ease | 90.8 |
| Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level | 2.5 |
| OK | |

Modification of text to least complexity

• **Modification 3**

Big storms happen every year. Each storm can have a name like Ann or Jim. Some storms are called hurricanes.

- Core Vocabulary
- Sentence complexity
- Language Concepts
- Readability
- Add Visuals/Objects

Modification of text to least complexity

• **Modification 3 : Add Visuals/Objects**

Big storms happen every year.



Each storm can have a name like Ann or Jim.

Anne



Some storms are called hurricanes.



Readability of Modification 3

Big storms happen every year. Each storm can have a name like Anne or Jim. Some storms are called hurricanes.


| Readability Statistics | |
|----------------------------|------|
| Counts | |
| Words | 20 |
| Characters | 90 |
| Paragraphs | 1 |
| Sentences | 3 |
| Averages | |
| Sentences per Paragraph | 3.0 |
| Words per Sentence | 6.6 |
| Characters per Word | 4.3 |
| Readability | |
| Flesch Reading Ease | 94.3 |
| Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level | 1.7 |
| OK | |

Tools to help reduce complexity of text

- Text compactor <http://textcompactor.com/>

Fitzgerald, F. Scott. The Great Gatsby New York: Scribner, 2000. (1925)
From Chapter 3

- Rewordify <http://rewordify.com/>



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Free Online Automatic Text Summarization Tool

Follow these simple steps to create a summary of your text.

Step 1
Type or paste your text into the box.

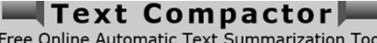
There was music from my neighbor's house through the summer nights. In his blue gardens men and girls came and went like moths among the whisperings and the champagne and the stars. At high tide in the afternoon I watched his guests diving from the tower of his raft, or taking the sun on the hot sand of his beach while his two motorboats slit the waters of the Sound, drawing aquaplanes over cataracts of foam. d

Step 2
Drag the slider, or enter a number in the box, to set the percentage of text to keep in the summary.

50 %

Step 3
Read your summarized text. If you would like a different summary, repeat Step 2. When you are happy with the summary, copy and paste the text into a word processor, or [text to speech program](#), or [language translation tool](#)

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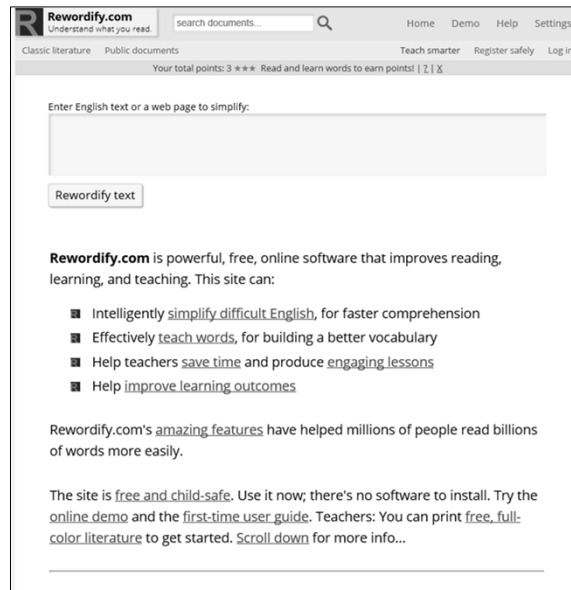
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At high tide in the afternoon I watched his guests diving from the tower of his raft, or taking the sun on the hot sand of his beach while his two motorboats slit the waters of the Sound, drawing aquaplanes over cataracts of foam.

Rewordify



The screenshot shows the Rewordify.com website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the site logo, a search bar, and links for Home, Demo, Help, and Settings. Below the navigation bar, there is a section for "Classic literature" and "Public documents". A user's progress is shown as "Your total points: 3 *** Read and learn words to earn points! | 2 | X". The main content area has a text input field labeled "Enter English text or a web page to simplify:" and a "Rewordify text" button. Below this, there is a description of the site's purpose and a list of features.

Rewordify.com is powerful, free, online software that improves reading, learning, and teaching. This site can:

- Intelligently simplify difficult English, for faster comprehension
- Effectively teach words, for building a better vocabulary
- Help teachers save time and produce engaging lessons
- Help improve learning outcomes

Rewordify.com's amazing features have helped millions of people read billions of words more easily.

The site is free and child-safe. Use it now; there's no software to install. Try the online demo and the first-time user guide. Teachers: You can print free, full-color literature to get started. Scroll down for more info...

Samples of Modified Text



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Grade 3-4



White, E. B. *Charlotte's Web* Illustrated by Garth Williams. New York: HarperCollins, 2001. (1952)

From Chapter 1: "Before Breakfast"

"Where's Papa going with that ax?" said Fern to her mother as they were setting the table for breakfast.

"Out to the hoghouse," replied Mrs. Arable. "Some pigs were born last night."

"I don't see why he needs an ax," continued Fern, who was only eight.

"Well," said her mother, "one of the pigs is a runt. It's very small and weak, and it will never amount to anything. So your father has decided to do away with it."

Modification 1 Content Most Complex



"Where's Papa going with that ax?" said Fern to her mother as they were setting the table for breakfast.

"Out to the hoghouse," replied Mrs. Arable. "Some pigs were born last night."

"I don't see why he needs an ax," continued Fern.

"Well," said her mother, "one of the pigs is a runt. It's very small and weak. So your father has decided to do away with it."

Modification 2 Content Mid Complex

"Where's Papa going with that ax?" said Fern to her mother.



"Out to the hoghouse," replied Mrs. Arable. "Some baby pigs were born."



"I don't see why he needs an ax," continued Fern



"Well," said her mother, "one of the pigs is too small. It's weak. So your father has decided to do away with it."



Modification 3 Content Least Complex

"Where's Papa going with that ax?" said Fern.



"Out to the where the hogs live," replied Mrs. Arable.



"Some babies were born."



"Well," said her mother, "one of the pigs is very small. It's very weak. So your father will have to kill it."



Grade 6-8



Twain, Mark. *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*
New York: Modern Library, 2001. (1876)
From Chapter 2: "The Glorious Whitewasher"

But Tom's energy did not last. He began to think of the fun he had planned for this day, and his sorrows multiplied.

Soon the free boys would come tripping along on all sorts of delicious expeditions, and they would make a world of fun of him for having to work—the very thought of it burnt him like fire.

Modification 1 Content Most Complex



Tom's energy did not last. He began to think about all the fun plans he had for the day and he became sad. Soon, his friends who were not working would come by and laugh at him because he was working. The thought of it made him mad.

Modification 2 Content Mid Complex

Tom was tired of working.



He thought about all the fun things he wanted to do today.



Then he was sad.



His friends would laugh at him.



They saw him working and they were not working but having fun.



The thought made him so mad.

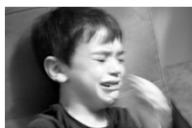


Modification 3 Content Least Complex

Tom was tired.



He thought about all the fun things he wanted to do and it made him sad.



Soon his friends would walk by.

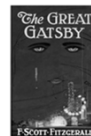


They would make fun of him because he had to work.

The thought made him mad.



HS Grade

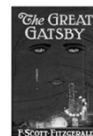


Fitzgerald, F. Scott. *The Great Gatsby* New York: Scribner, 2000. (1925)

From Chapter 3

There was music from my neighbor's house through the summer nights. In his blue gardens men and girls came and went like moths among the whisperings and the champagne and the stars. At high tide in the afternoon I watched his guests diving from the tower of his raft, or taking the sun on the hot sand of his beach while his two motorboats slit the waters of the Sound, drawing aquaplanes over cataracts of foam.

HS Grade



Modification 1 Content Most Complex

I could hear music from the house next door. There were people in their garden drinking fancy drinks. By the water, people were swimming, laying in the sun or taking a ride in the fancy boats.

Modification 2 Content Mid Complex

I could hear music.



I saw people in a garden drinking.



I saw water.



I could see people swimming and taking a ride in the boats.



Modification 3 Content Least Complex

I heard a song.



I saw people in a garden.



I saw water.



I saw people swimming.



I saw boats in the water.



Additional Considerations

- Informational text includes magazine articles, newspapers, etc. that can be reduced with complexity
- Consider core vocabulary and high frequency words when reducing complexity using recipes, reading posters and flyers and other informational text found in the community

Learner's Outcomes



- Define grade appropriate text
- Identify examples of where to locate grade appropriate text and considerations for selecting text
- Identify a variety of ways to modify text and reduce complexity

Reviewer Thank You

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PaTTAN, MTSS, Reading/Literacy

Elizabeth Christopher
Educational Consultant
PaTTAN, State Lead, Speech/Language

John Dellegrotto, Ed.D.
Educational Consultant
TLC Associates (Teaching, Learning,
Curriculum)



Next webinar

- April 27, 2016
- Viewing window opens at 3:00pm on April 27, 2016 and closes at 8:00am on April 28, 2016
- Alternate Eligible Content: **Tips for Reducing Complexity Across ELA/Reading and Math**

Contact Information

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Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Tom Wolf, Governor