

***Fudge-A-Mania*, by Judy Blume – Lexile 490, 146 pages**

The Fudge series, by Judy Blume, is a wonderful series for third-graders, not only for its readability but also for its relatable characters and humorous plotlines. Your students will likely be interested in reading the rest of the books in this series after this one. I recommend placing your students who are reading below grade level in this text.

***Fudge-A-Mania* Text Complexity**

QUALITATIVE MEASURES		QUANTITATIVE MEASURES	
<b>Levels of Meaning</b> The central message of this text is that all's well that ends well. Additional themes relate to family and friendship.  <b>Structure</b> Overall, the narrative uses a fairly simple, explicit, and conventional story structure.  <b>Language Conventionality and Clarity</b> Although the language used is generally familiar, clear, and conversational, Judy Blume uses some ambiguous language in the text.  <b>Knowledge Demands</b> General background knowledge about family, friends, and community is needed.		The Lexile level for <i>Fudge-A-Mania</i> is 490, based on word frequency and sentence length. This is at the low end of the complexity band for 2 <sup>nd</sup> –3 <sup>rd</sup> grade according to the Common Core State Standards.	
		READER TASK CONSIDERATIONS	
		These should be determined locally with reference to motivation, knowledge, and experiences as well as to purpose and the complexity of the tasks assigned and the questions posed.	

**Wall Ball, by Kevin Markey – Lexile 650, 181 pages**

Students who studied *Maniac Magee* in C. I. A. Unit of Study 3.5 will enjoy reading this book similar in writing style to the baseball scenes in *Maniac Magee*! *Wall Ball* is more challenging than the book *Fudge-A-Mania* due to the length of the text, the quantitative demand, and the use of figurative language. Complex sentence structure used throughout the text will add challenge for third-graders. Some background knowledge for the game of baseball will be needed to help the reader visualize while reading. I recommend placing students who are reading on grade level in this text.

**Wall Ball Text Complexity**

QUALITATIVE MEASURES	QUANTITATIVE MEASURES
<b>Levels of Meaning</b> The central message of this text is that a good team works together. Additional themes relate to family, friendship, and community.	The Lexile level for <i>Wall Ball</i> is 650, based on word frequency and sentence length. This is at the middle-level of the complexity band for 2 <sup>nd</sup> –3 <sup>rd</sup> grade according to the Common Core State Standards.
<b>Structure</b> Overall, the narrative uses a fairly simple, explicit, and conventional story structure.	<b>READER TASK CONSIDERATIONS</b>
<b>Language Conventionality and Clarity</b> Figurative language is used extensively in this text to provide humor.	These should be determined locally with reference to motivation, knowledge, and experiences as well as to purpose and the complexity of the tasks assigned and the questions posed.
<b>Knowledge Demands</b> General background knowledge about the game of baseball and playing on a team will be important for understanding this text.	

**Swindle, by Gordon Korman – Lexile 710, 252 pages**

The Swindle series, by Gordon Korman, is an exciting series for third-graders, with relatable characters and fast paced plotlines. A full list of characters, and a lot of pages make this text challenging for young readers. I recommend placing students who are reading above grade level in this text.

**Swindle Text Complexity**

QUALITATIVE MEASURES	QUANTITATIVE MEASURES
<p><b>Levels of Meaning</b> There are multiple themes throughout the book, increasing the complexity of the text. Themes include right vs. wrong, and working together to solve a problem. The central theme students will focus on throughout the book is that together you can accomplish the impossible.</p> <p><b>Structure</b> Overall, the narrative uses a fairly simple, explicit, and conventional story structure.</p> <p><b>Language Conventionality and Clarity</b> Although the language used is generally familiar, clear, and conversational, Gordon Korman uses some ambiguous language in the text.</p> <p><b>Knowledge Demands</b> General background knowledge about family, friends, and community is needed, as well as general background knowledge about baseball cards and heists.</p>	<p>The Lexile level for <i>Swindle</i> is 710, based on word frequency and sentence length. This is in the upper range of the complexity band for 2<sup>nd</sup>–3<sup>rd</sup> grade according to the Common Core State Standards.</p>
	READER TASK CONSIDERATIONS
	<p>These should be determined locally with reference to motivation, knowledge, and experiences as well as to purpose and the complexity of the tasks assigned and the questions posed.</p>