

## How to Differentiate Using Leveled Texts

According to the Common Core State Standards (2010), all students need to learn to read and discuss concepts across the content areas to be prepared for college and beyond. This leveled text lesson helps teachers differentiate content for their students to allow all students access to the concepts being explored.

Each text is written at four different reading levels. Below is a chart for all the topics within the original book for this eLesson. While these texts are written at a variety of reading levels, all the levels remain strong in presenting the content and vocabulary. Teachers can focus on the same content standard or objective for the whole class, but individual students can access the content at their individual instructional reading levels rather than at their frustration levels.

Teachers can also use the texts to scaffold the content for their students. At the beginning of the year, students at the lowest reading levels may need focused teacher guidance. As the year progresses, teachers can begin giving students multiple levels of the same text to allow them to work independently to improve their comprehension. This means that students would have copies of the texts at their independent reading levels and instructional reading levels. As students read the instructional-level texts, they can use the lower texts to better understand the difficult vocabulary. By scaffolding the content in this way, teachers can support students as they move up through the reading levels. This will encourage students to work with texts that are closer to the grade level at which they will be tested.

## Creating Text-Dependent Discussions

The generic, open-ended stems listed below can be adapted to any topic. Use questions or statements like the ones shown here to develop discussion prompts for the leveled texts.

- In what ways did...
- Give evidence from the text to support . . .
- Justify your thinking using text evidence about . . .
- Find evidence to support your conclusions about . . .
- What text evidence helps the reader understand \_\_\_\_?
- How can you use the text and related texts to support \_\_\_\_?
- Use the book to tell why \_\_\_\_ happened.
- Based on events in the story, . . . ?
- Show me the part in the text that supports . . .
- Use text evidence to tell why . . .

## Readability Chart

Title of the Text	 Star	 Circle	 Square	 Triangle
<i>Alice's Adventures in Wonderland</i>	2.2	3.4	5.0	6.8*
<i>The Wonderful Wizard of Oz</i>	2.2	3.5	5.1	7.2*
<i>The Adventures of Peter Pan</i>	2.2	3.2	5.3*	6.5
<i>A Princess of Mars</i>	2.2	3.4	5.0	6.5*
<i>Frankenstein, or the Modern Prometheus</i>	2.2	3.3	5.4	7.1*
<i>The Lost World</i>	2.2	3.5	5.3*	6.5
<i>The Wind in the Willows</i>	1.8	3.0	5.0*	6.5
<i>A Journey into the Center of the Earth</i>	2.2	3.5	5.3*	6.8
<i>The Jungle Book</i>	2.0	3.5	5.5*	6.5
<i>The Legend of Sleepy Hollow</i>	2.2	3.5	5.4	7.1*
<i>The Time Machine</i>	2.2	3.4	5.4*	6.6
<i>The Tale of Peter Rabbit</i>	2.2	3.4	5.1*	6.5
<i>The Story of Doctor Dolittle</i>	2.2	3.5	5.1*	6.5
<i>The Secret Garden</i>	2.2	3.5	5.3	6.5*
<i>Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea: An Underwater Tour of the World</i>	2.2	3.4	5.2*	6.5

Excerpt from

# Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea: An Underwater Tour of the World

by Jules Verne

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I went to the captain. “An unusual group of devilfish,” I told him. I was as carefree as a collector at an aquarium.

“True, Mr. Naturalist,” he replied. “And we’re going to fight them at close quarters.”

I stared at him. I thought my hearing was bad. “Up close?” I said.

“Yes, sir. Our propeller is stuck. I think the hard jaws of one of these squid are caught in the blades. That’s why we aren’t moving.”

“And what will you do?”

“Go up to the surface. Then we will kill the pests.”

“A hard thing to do.”

“Yes. Our electric bullets won’t help. They don’t work on their soft flesh. They don’t hit strong enough force to go off. But we’ll fight the beasts with axes.”

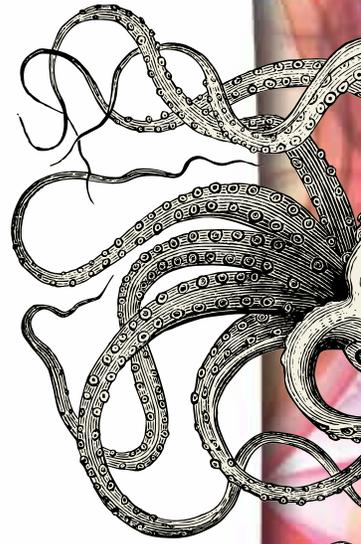
“And harpoons, sir.” the Canadian said. “I hope you don’t turn down my help.”

“I accept it, Mr. Land.”

“We’ll go with you,” I said. We followed Captain Nemo. We headed to the main stairs.

There ten men were ready for the fight. They were armed with axes. Conseil and I picked up two more. Ned Land took a harpoon.

The *Nautilus* got to the surface of the water. One of the men at the top of the steps undid the screws of the hatch cover. He had barely loosened them when the hatch flew up! It had been pulled open by the suckers on a squid’s arm.



A long arm moved like a snake into the opening. Twenty more arms wiggled above. Captain Nemo swung his axe. He chopped off this terrible arm. It fell down the steps.

We shoved each other to reach the top. Two more arms lashed the air. They grabbed the man in front of Captain Nemo. They carried the fellow away. The arms had great strength.

Captain Nemo gave a shout! He leaped outside. We rushed after him.

What a scene! Seized by the tentacle and glued to its suckers, the unlucky man swung in the air. He was at the mercy of this huge arm. He gasped. He choked. He yelled: "Help! Help!" These words were in French. They left me stunned! So I had a countryman on board. Maybe there were more! I'll hear his scream the rest of my life!

The poor man was lost. Who could tear him from such a strong arm? Even so, Captain Nemo attacked the devilfish. With a sweep of the ax he hewed one more of its arms. His chief officer struggled furiously with other monsters. They crawled up the *Nautilus's* sides. The crew battled with flailing axes. The Canadian, Conseil, and I hit our weapons into their flesh. A sour odor filled the air. It was horrible.

What rage then drove us against these monsters! We could not control ourselves. Ten or twelve devilfish had overrun the ship. They swarmed its platform and sides. We ran quickly into these sawed-off snakes. They darted over the deck in waves of blood and sepia ink. It seemed as if these viscous tentacles grew back like the many heads of Hydra. At every thrust, Ned Land's harpoon would plunge into a squid's sea-green eye and burst it. But my daring friend was knocked down. He was struck by the tentacles of a monster he could not avoid.

Oh, my heart nearly exploded with excitement and horror! The squid's awful beak was wide open over Ned Land. The poor man would be cut in half. I ran to his rescue. But Captain Nemo got there first. His ax disappeared. It fell between the two huge jaws. The Canadian was miraculously saved. He stood. He plunged his harpoon! It went all the way into the devilfish's triple heart.

## Element Focus: Language Usage

What does the narrator mean when he says, "Oh, my heart nearly exploded with excitement and horror!" How does this use of hyperbole change the level of excitement in the passage?



Excerpt from

# Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea: An Underwater Tour of the World

by Jules Verne

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I went over to the captain. “An unusual assortment of devilfish,” I told him. I was as carefree as a collector in front of an aquarium.

“Correct, Mr. Naturalist,” he answered me. “And we’re going to fight them at close quarters.”

I stared at the captain. I thought my hearing had gone bad. “Up close?” I repeated.

“Yes, sir. Our propeller is jammed. I think the horn-covered jaws of one of these squid are caught in the blades. That’s why we aren’t moving.”

“And what are you going to do?”

“Rise to the surface. Then we will kill the pests.”

“A hard thing to do.”

“Yes. Our electric bullets don’t work in their soft flesh. They don’t hit with enough resistance to go off. But we’ll attack the beasts with axes.”

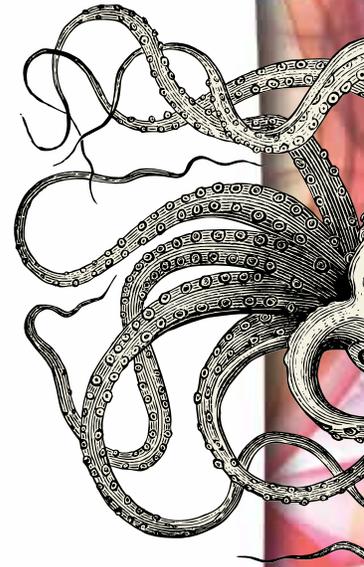
“And harpoons, sir.” the Canadian said. “I hope you don’t turn down my help.”

“I accept it, Mr. Land.”

“We’ll go with you,” I said. And we followed Captain Nemo. We headed to the central passage.

There some ten men were standing by for the assault. They were armed with boarding axes. Conseil and I picked up two more axes. Ned Land seized a harpoon.

By then, the *Nautilus* had returned to the surface of the waves. One of the sailors at the top of the steps unlocked the bolts of the hatch cover. He had barely unscrewed the nuts when the hatch flew up with great force! It had been pulled open by the suckers on a devilfish’s arm.



Instantly one of those long arms slid like a snake into the opening. Twenty other arms were quivering above. With a sweep of the ax, Captain Nemo chopped off this terrible tentacle. It slid writhing down the steps.

We crowded each other to reach the platform. Two more arms lashed the air. They swooped on the seaman stationed in front of Captain Nemo. They carried the fellow away with irresistible force.

Captain Nemo gave a shout! He leaped outside. We rushed after him.

What a scene! Seized by the tentacle and glued to its suckers, the unfortunate man was swinging in the air. He was helpless in this huge arm. He gasped. He choked. He yelled: "Help! Help!" These words, spoken in French, left me deeply stunned! So I had a fellow countryman on board. Maybe there were several! I'll hear his awful cry the rest of my life!

The poor fellow was done for. Who could tear him from such a powerful grip? Even so, Captain Nemo rushed at the devilfish. He swung the ax and sliced one more of its arms. His chief officer struggled furiously with other monsters crawling up the *Nautilus's* sides. The crew battled with flailing axes. The Canadian, Conseil, and I sank our weapons into these fleshy monsters. A strong, sour odor filled the air. It was horrible.

What rage then drove us against these monsters! We lost all self-control. Ten or twelve devilfish had taken over the ship's platform and sides. We piled quickly into the middle of these sawed-off snakes. They darted over the platform in waves of blood and sepia ink. It seemed as if these viscous tentacles grew back like the many heads of Hydra. At every thrust, Ned Land's harpoon would plunge into a squid's sea-green eye and burst it. But my daring companion was suddenly knocked down. He was struck by the tentacles of a monster he could not avoid.

Oh, my heart nearly exploded with excitement and horror! The squid's awful beak was wide open over Ned Land. The poor man was about to be cut in half. I ran to his rescue. But Captain Nemo got there first. His ax disappeared between the two enormous jaws. The Canadian, miraculously saved, stood. He plunged his harpoon all the way into the devilfish's triple heart.

### Element Focus: Language Usage

The narrator says "my heart nearly exploded with excitement and horror." Explain how this use of hyperbole adds to the excitement of the passage. Describe other ways that the author builds excitement.



Excerpt from

# Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea: An Underwater Tour of the World

by Jules Verne

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I went over to the captain. “An unusual assortment of devilfish,” I told him, as carefree as a collector in front of an aquarium.

“Correct, Mr. Naturalist,” he answered me, “and we’re going to fight them at close quarters.”

I gaped at the captain. I thought my hearing had gone bad. “At close quarters?” I repeated.

“Yes, sir. Our propeller is jammed. I think the horn-covered mandibles of one of these squid are entangled in the blades. That’s why we aren’t moving.”

“And what are you going to do?”

“Rise to the surface and slaughter the vermin.”

“A difficult undertaking.”

“Correct. Our electric bullets are ineffective against such soft flesh, where they don’t meet enough resistance to go off. But we’ll attack the beasts with axes.”

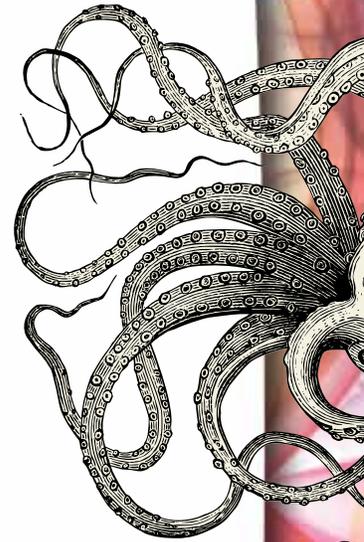
“And harpoons, sir,” the Canadian said, “if you don’t turn down my help.”

“I accept it, Mr. Land.”

“We’ll go with you,” I said. And we followed Captain Nemo, heading to the central companionway.

There some ten men were standing by for the assault, armed with boarding axes. Conseil and I picked up two more axes. Ned Land seized a harpoon.

By then the *Nautilus* had returned to the surface of the waves. Stationed on the top steps, one of the seamen undid the bolts of the hatch. But he had scarcely unscrewed the nuts when the hatch flew up with tremendous violence, obviously pulled open by the suckers on a devilfish’s arm.



Instantly one of those long arms glided like a snake into the opening, and twenty others were quivering above. With a sweep of the ax, Captain Nemo chopped off this fearsome tentacle, which slid writhing down the steps.

Just as we were crowding each other to reach the platform, two more arms lashed the air, swooped on the seaman stationed in front of Captain Nemo, and carried the fellow away with irresistible violence.

Captain Nemo gave a shout and leaped outside. We rushed after him.

What a scene! Seized by the tentacle and glued to its suckers, the unfortunate man was swinging in the air at the mercy of this enormous appendage. He gasped, he choked, he yelled: “Help! Help!” These words, pronounced in French, left me deeply stunned! So I had a fellow countryman on board, perhaps several! I’ll hear his harrowing plea the rest of my life!

The poor fellow was done for. Who could tear him from such a powerful grip? Even so, Captain Nemo rushed at the devilfish and with a sweep of the ax hewed one more of its arms. His chief officer struggled furiously with other monsters crawling up the *Nautilus’s* sides. The crew battled with flailing axes. The Canadian, Conseil, and I sank our weapons into these fleshy masses. An intense, musky odor filled the air. It was horrible.

What rage then drove us against these monsters! We lost all self-control. Ten or twelve devilfish had overrun the *Nautilus’s* platform and sides. We piled helter-skelter into the thick of these sawed-off snakes, which darted over the platform amid waves of blood and sepia ink. It seemed as if these viscous tentacles grew back like the many heads of Hydra. At every thrust Ned Land’s harpoon would plunge into a squid’s sea-green eye and burst it. But my daring companion was suddenly toppled by the tentacles of a monster he could not avoid.

Oh, my heart nearly exploded with excitement and horror! The squid’s fearsome beak was wide open over Ned Land. The poor man was about to be cut in half. I ran to his rescue. But Captain Nemo got there first. His ax disappeared between the two enormous mandibles, and the Canadian, miraculously saved, stood and plunged his harpoon all the way into the devilfish’s triple heart.

## Element Focus: Language Usage

Describe several ways that Jules Verne builds excitement in this story.



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by Jules Verne

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I went over to the captain. “An unusual assortment of devilfish,” I companionably informed him, as carefree as a collector in front of an aquarium.

“Correct, Mr. Naturalist,” he answered me seriously, “and we’re going to fight them at close quarters.”

I gaped at the captain, thinking my hearing had gone bad. “At close quarters?” I repeated dumbly.

“Yes, sir. Our propeller is jammed and I believe the horn-covered mandibles of one of these squid are entangled in the blades, keeping us from moving.”

“And what are you going to do?”

“We shall rise to the surface and slaughter the vermin.”

“That will be a difficult undertaking.”

“Correct. Our electric bullets are ineffective against such soft flesh, where they don’t meet enough resistance to go off; however, we’ll attack the beasts with axes.”

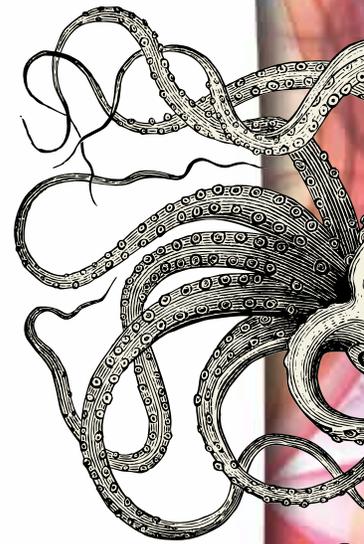
“And harpoons, sir,” the Canadian said by way of an offer, “if you don’t turn down my help.”

“I accept it, Mr. Land.”

“We’ll go with you,” I said decisively. And we followed Captain Nemo, heading to the central companionway.

There some ten men were standing by for the assault, armed with boarding axes. Conseil and I picked up two more axes while Ned Land seized a harpoon.

By then, the *Nautilus* had returned to the surface of the waves. Stationed on the top steps, one of the seamen undid the bolts of the hatch, but he had scarcely unscrewed the nuts, when the hatch flew up with tremendous violence, obviously pulled open by the suckers on a devilfish’s arm.



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Just as we were crowding each other to reach the platform, two more arms lashed the air, swooped on the seaman stationed in front of Captain Nemo, and carried the fellow away with irresistible violence.

Captain Nemo gave a shout and leaped outside and we all rushed after him.

What a scene! Seized by the tentacle and glued to its suckers, the unfortunate man was swinging in the air at the mercy of this enormous appendage. He gasped, he choked, he yelled: “Help! Help!” These words, pronounced in French, left me deeply stunned! So I had a fellow countryman on board, perhaps several! I’ll hear his harrowing plea the rest of my life!

The poor fellow was certainly done for. Who could tear him from such a powerful grip? Even so, Captain Nemo rushed at the devilfish and with a sweep of the ax hewed one more of its arms while his chief officer struggled furiously with other monsters crawling up the *Nautilus’s* sides. The crew battled with flailing axes, and the Canadian, Conseil, and I sank our weapons into these fleshy masses. An intense, musky odor filled the air. It was horrible.

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Oh, my heart nearly exploded with excitement and horror! The squid’s fearsome beak was wide open over Ned Land, threatening to cut the poor man in half! I ran to his rescue, but Captain Nemo got there first. His ax disappeared between the two enormous mandibles, and the Canadian, miraculously saved, stood and plunged his harpoon all the way into the devilfish’s triple heart.

## Element Focus: Language Usage

Describe several ways that Jules Verne uses language to create an exciting story. How might you tell this story differently?