Ravenscourt Books Readability and Decodability

For students who have completed	The Unexpected	Overcoming Adversity	Reaching Goals
	Corrective Reading Decoding B1*	*Corrective Reading Decoding B2**	*Corrective Reading Decoding C** lesson 60
Reading Level	2	3	5
Decodability	> 97%	> 95%	> 95%

*Or have attained comparable skills

This chart outlines the basic readability and decodability of the three collections of *Ravenscourt Books.* The following text and chart explain in greater detail

- how readablity was calculated.
- how readablity formulas differ.
- how decodability was figured.

The readability of *Ravenscourt Books* was calculated using a computer program to analyze the books in each level. The text for each book was entered into the computer and was analyzed using several readability formulas. Each readability formula has particular characteristics and uses.

Readability Formulas

The **Expanded Readability and Decodability Chart** lists two readability scores for each book. The formulas chosen were the most appropriate for that level. The gray rows at the bottom of each section give the ranges and averages for each set of books.

The **Fry Graph** is a very popular readability formula. The Fry scores for all three sets have been calculated. Fry is an appropriate formula for upper elementary to college-level texts and nonfiction. It is not as reliable for fiction.

The Fry score is a correlation of the average number of sentences per 100 words with the number of syllables for the same passage.

For **The Unexpected,** the **Spache** formula was also used to calculate readability. Spache is most appropriate for primary level; that is, early elementary to fourth grade. Spache has its own word list, which means that some decodable but uncommon words would be counted as difficult or unfamiliar. These words are counted only once.

For **Overcoming Adversity,** in addition to the Fry, the score for the **Flesch-Kincaid** was also provided. This formula is most appropriate for upper elementary and secondary. The score is figured by calculating the average number of syllables per word and the average sentence length. It does not compare vocabulary to a set list.

For **Reaching Goals,** the second score was a **Dale-Chall.** Like the Spache, it has its own word list and compares the words in the story to the list of words to determine difficulty. It also factors the total number of words and sentences. Unlike the Spache, it is geared to upper elementary and secondary reading levels.

Expanded Readability and Decodability Chart

Ravenscourt Collection	Readability Formulas		Decodability	Word Count
The Unexpected For students who have completed *Decoding B1* of *Corrective Reading*	**Fry**	**Spache**		
Making Gold	.8	1.8	99%	1747
Born Dead	3.1	1.9	97%	1798
The Navel of the World	4.1	2.1	97%	1859
The Mountain Is On Fire!	1.4	1.9	97%	1631
Atlantis: Land of Mystery	2.5	1.9	98%	1704
The Ransom of Red Chief Retold	.7	2.0	99%	1865
The Legend of Sleepy Hollow Retold	1.7	2.0	98%	1780
King Midas and the Golden Touch	1.1	1.8	99%	1929
Ranges for **The Unexpected**	.7–4.1	1.8–2.1	97–99%	1631–1929
Averages for **The Unexpected**	**1.9**	**1.9**	**98%**	**1789**
Overcoming Adversity For students who have completed *Decoding B2* of *Corrective Reading*	**Fry**	**Flesch-Kincaid**		
The Last Boat	1.6	1.9	96%	3943
No Need to Shout	3.1	2.7	97%	4792
Playing Through Pain: The Story of Roberto Clemente	3.9	4.0	97%	4005
Once There Were Two	4.6	3.9	96%	4260
Walls of Water	3.1	3.0	96%	3934
Robinson Crusoe's Adventures	3.3	2.5	98%	4641
The Trojan War	4.0	3.3	97%	4585
Monte Cristo's Prison Years	1.8	2.0	95%	5070
Ranges for **Overcoming Adversity**	1.6–4.6	1.9–4.0	95–98%	3934–5070
Averages for **Overcoming Adversity**	**3.2**	**2.9**	**97%**	**4404**
Reaching Goals For students who have completed Lesson 60 of *Decoding C* of *Corrective Reading*	**Fry**	**Dale-Chall**		
Joanie's Fire	4.2	4.8	99%	8112
On Time in Orange	4.3	5.0	98%	8113
Race to the North Pole	4.3	4.9	99%	8580
Beyond the Waves and the Wind	6.1	5.4	96%	8181
The Story of the Time Machine	4.4	4.9	98%	7817
The Call of the Wild Retold	2.9	5.1	97%	7697
20,000 Leagues Under the Sea Retold	4.6	5.1	96%	7790
The Labors of Hercules	4.8	5.0	99%	8011
Ranges for **Reaching Goals**	2.9–6.1	4.8–5.4	96–99%	7697–8580
Averages for **Reaching Goals**	**4.5**	**5.0**	**98%**	**8038**

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Decodability

The **Expanded Readability and Decodability Chart** gives a decodability percentage. This number describes the percentage of words students should be able to read based on pretaught words and decoding rules. A high percentage shows a high correlation between students' decoding ability and the text.

What is decodable text?

Decodable text is composed of words that students can identify on the basis of phonemic elements that have been taught and on previously introduced sight words.

What was the basis for calculating the decodability of *Ravenscourt Books?*

Word lists were created for each level. The lists include:

1) the vocabulary and decoding patterns taught in the previous levels of ***Corrective Reading Decoding***

2) words from the Dolch lists that are known by the students

How was decodability figured for ***Ravenscourt Books?***

- The word list for each level was saved to a computer program.
- The text of a book was loaded into the same program.
- The computer compared the text to the list and made a list of the "nondecodable words."
- The program compared the total number of words in the text to the total number of times nondecodable words were used.

The **Word Lists** in the ***Teacher's Guides*** are made up of these "unfamiliar" words, some of which are proper nouns. To ensure student success, we recommend teachers preteach the **Word Lists** before the students read each chapter, even though the decodability level of a book is very high.