

Exhibit 1.8: PIRLS 2016 Assessment Passages

Literary Passages	Informational Passages
PIRLS Passages	
Shiny Straw ■ – This animal story demonstrates heroism and the consequences of a reckless attitude.	Leonardo Da Vinci ◇ – This biographical text describes the inventions of Leonardo da Vinci and the ways that he was ahead of his time.
Macy and the Red Hen – This contemporary story portrays a complex character who meets a challenge when caring for a red hen.	The Green Sea Turtle’s Journey of a Lifetime – This passage describes the life cycle of a female green sea turtle from the time she hatches from an egg to the time she lays her own eggs.
The Empty Pot * - This traditional tale set in China has a moral message about the importance of honesty.	Where’s the Honey? * – This passage describes the relationship between the honeyguide bird and the Boran people in Africa using a combination of explanation, photographs, and graphic displays.
Oliver and the Griffin - In this fantasy story, a boy named Oliver meets an old griffin in a garden and decides to help him.	Icelandic Horses – This article describes the history and characteristics of Icelandic horses as they developed along with the people who lived near them.
Shared PIRLS/PIRLS Literacy Passages	
Flowers on the Roof ◇ – This contemporary story portrays friendship between the generations.	Sharks ■ – This article presents information about sharks in a variety of formats, using subheadings, a labeled diagram, and photographs.
Pemba Sherpa – This modern tale set in the Himalayan Mountains tells the story of a young girl determined to be a sherpa.	How Did We Learn to Fly? – This historical text explains how the modern airplane was developed.
PIRLS Literacy Passages	
Baghita’s Perfect Orange * - This traditional tale set in Africa has a moral about greed and generosity.	Training a Deaf Polar Bear * – The passage describes how zookeepers worked with a polar bear that was found to be deaf.
The Pearl – This story about a young pearl merchant illustrates the power of home, friendship, and generosity above greed.	African Rhinos & Oxpecker Birds – This passage presents information about African rhinos and oxpecker birds and describes how the two animals depend on one another for food and survival.
The Summer My Father Was Ten * – In this thought-provoking story with a realistic contemporary setting, a boy is allowed to make amends for his thoughtless behavior.	Ants * – This article presents information about the lives of different types of ants, using subheadings, photographs, and diagrams.
Library Mouse – This story is about a mouse who lives in the library and inspires young children to be authors.	Hungry Plant – This scientific text describes the Venus Flytrap plant and explains how it captures insects for food.

◇ Passage from PIRLS 2001

■ Passage from PIRLS 2006

* Passage from PIRLS 2011

Exhibit 1.8: PIRLS 2016 Assessment Passages (Continued)

PIRLS 2016 Word Counts and Readability

Passage	Word Count	Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level
PIRLS Passages		
Shiny Straw	860	5.5
Macy and the Red Hen	913	4.4
The Empty Pot	767	4.9
Oliver and the Griffin	896	3.3
Leonardo Da Vinci	869	5.1
The Green Sea Turtle’s Journey of a Lifetime	943	4.0
Where’s the Honey?	870	3.2
Icelandic Horses	870	5.0
Shared PIRLS/PIRLS Literacy Passages		
Flowers on the Roof	811	2.8
Sharks	570	7.6
Pemba Sherpa	540	2.5
How Did We Learn to Fly?	514	6.3
PIRLS Literacy Passages		
Baghita’s Perfect Orange	404	2.0
The Pearl	536	2.9
The Summer My Father Was Ten	484	4.0
Library Mouse	497	3.1
Training a Deaf Polar Bear	425	4.0
African Rhinos & Oxpecker Birds	449	4.7
Ants	415	2.9
Hungry Plant	509	3.5

The Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level Formula uses average syllables per word and average sentence length to produce a number that represents the US grade in which students can read the text.