

# ELA Passage Selection for Grades 3-12

What to consider when  
selecting passages for instruction and assessment

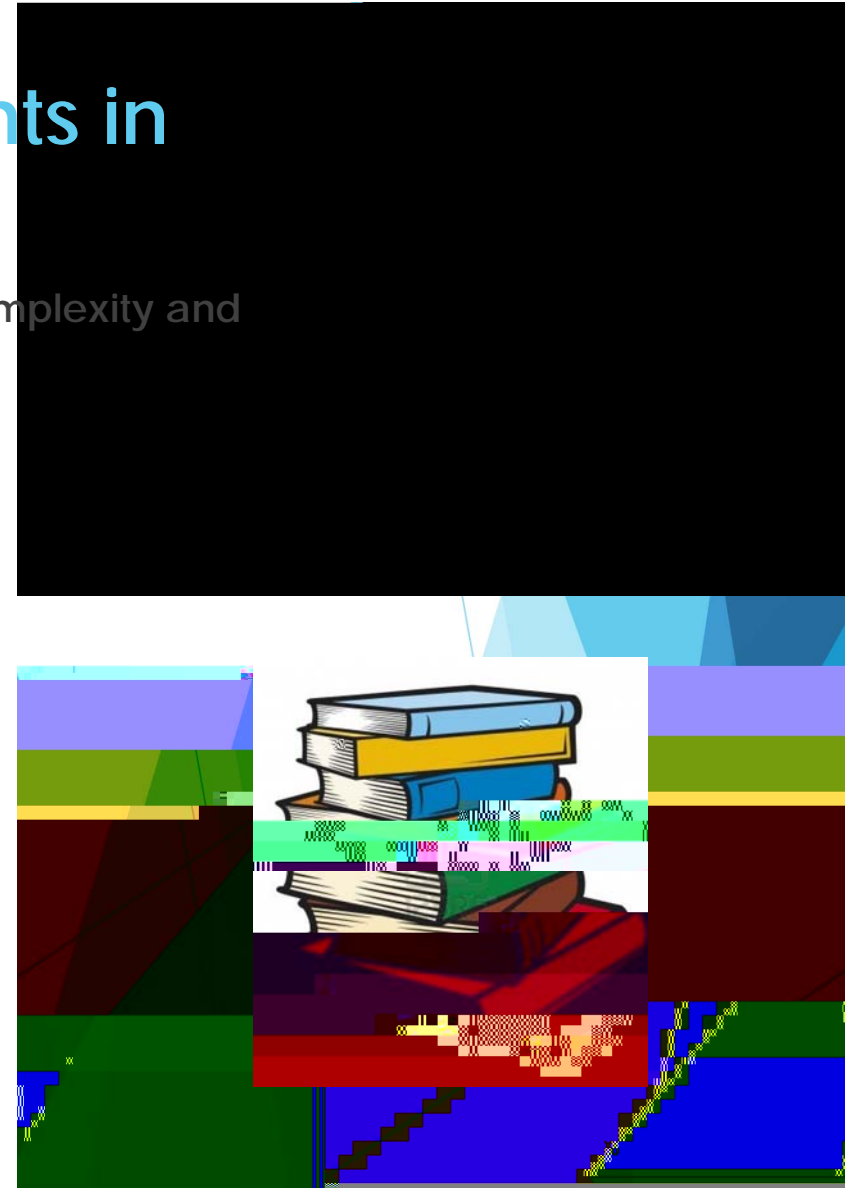
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Office of State Assessment

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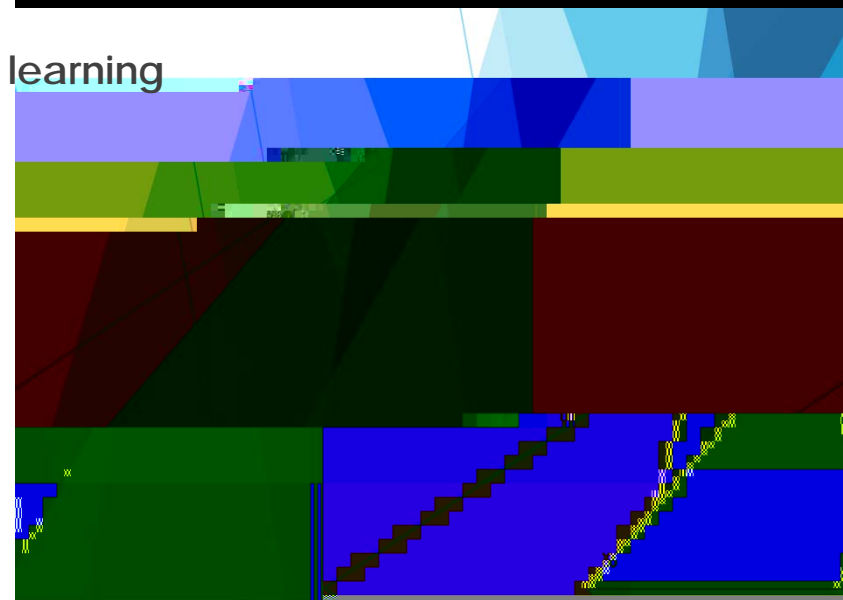
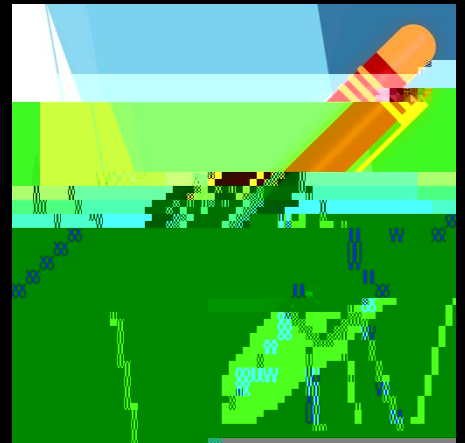
# Ideally, selected texts for students in Grades 3-12 should be...

- i developmentally/grade appropriate in both complexity and



# When selecting for classroom use, teachers can use passages that...

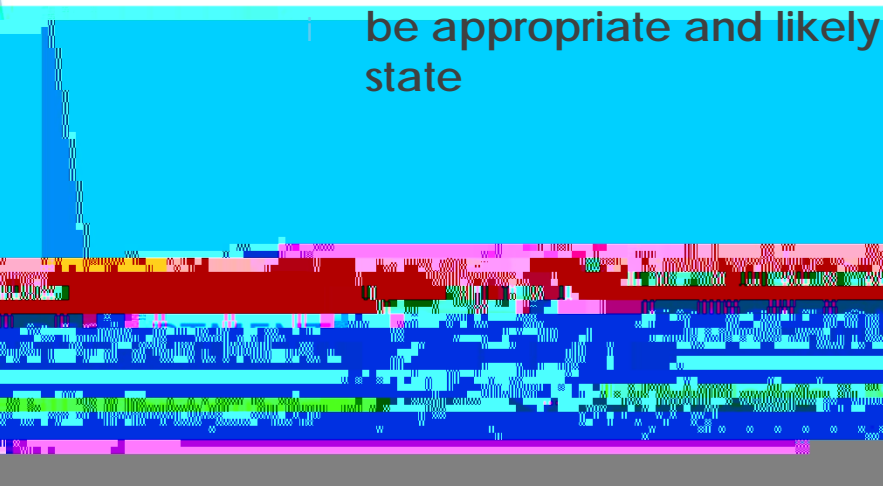
- i may require some scaffolding or background knowledge
- i address student interests and meet learning objectives
- i will support cross-curricular or inter-disciplinary learning
- i may only be of local interest



# When selecting passages for NYS ELA assessments, there are other considerations. Passages must...

- i meet established criteria for length (word count)
- i vary in complexity within established grade bands

be appropriate and likely of interest to students across the entire state



## Passages must...(continued)

- i be suitable for item development
- i be information rich and demonstrate exemplary writing skill
- i represent a variety of eras, genres, topics, styles, and cultures



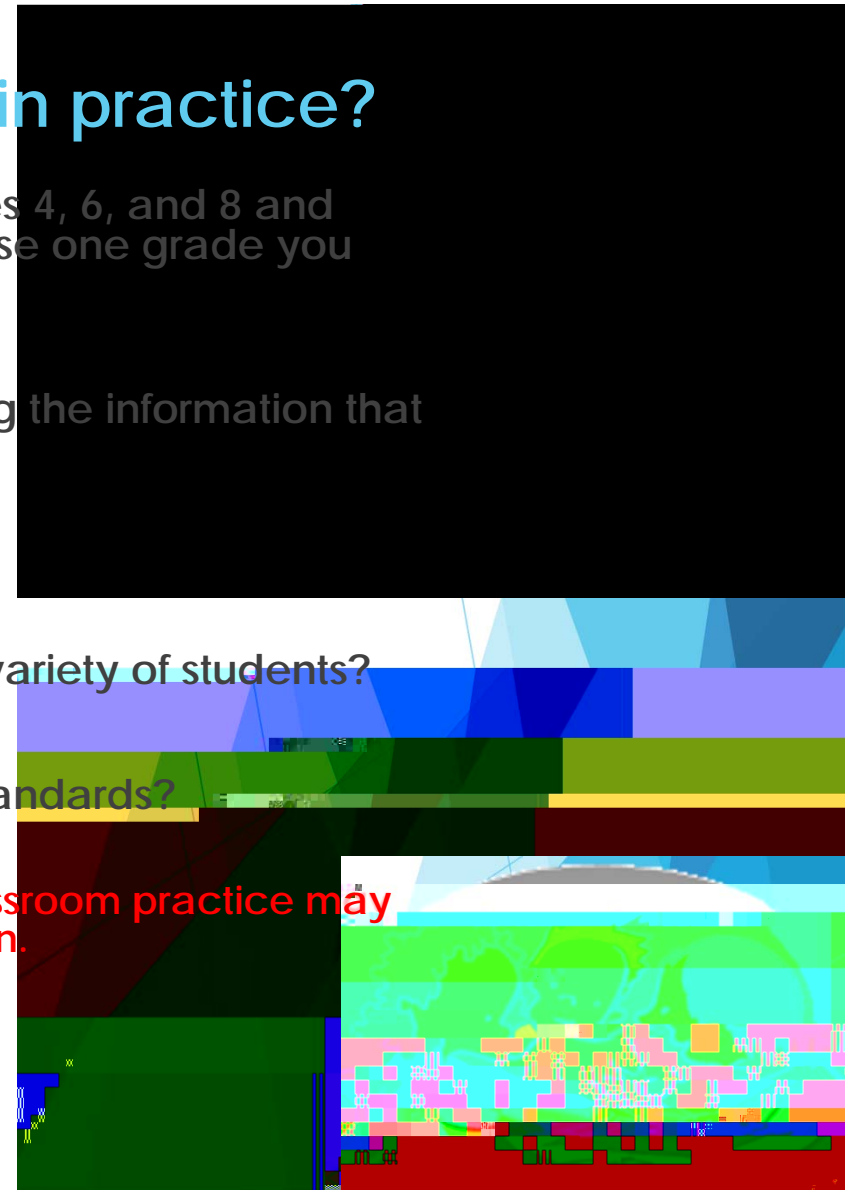
# What does passage selection look like in practice?

On your table, you will find copies of passages from Grades 4, 6, and 8 and high school that were used on NYS ELA assessments. Choose one grade you would like to review.

Take 5 minutes to read the texts for your grade, considering the information that was just shared with you.

- i Do the passages represent different genres and styles?
- i Are the passages interesting and accessible to a wide variety of students?
- i Can the passages be used to assess several learning standards?

Take a minute to discuss with your colleagues how your classroom practice may change as a result of today's presentation.





We value your opinions and feedback!  
<https://www.research.net/r/passageselect>

If you would like to participate in the test development process visit us at <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/assessment/teacher/home.html>

For additional questions about NYS assessments, please email [emscassinfo@nysed.gov](mailto:emscassinfo@nysed.gov)