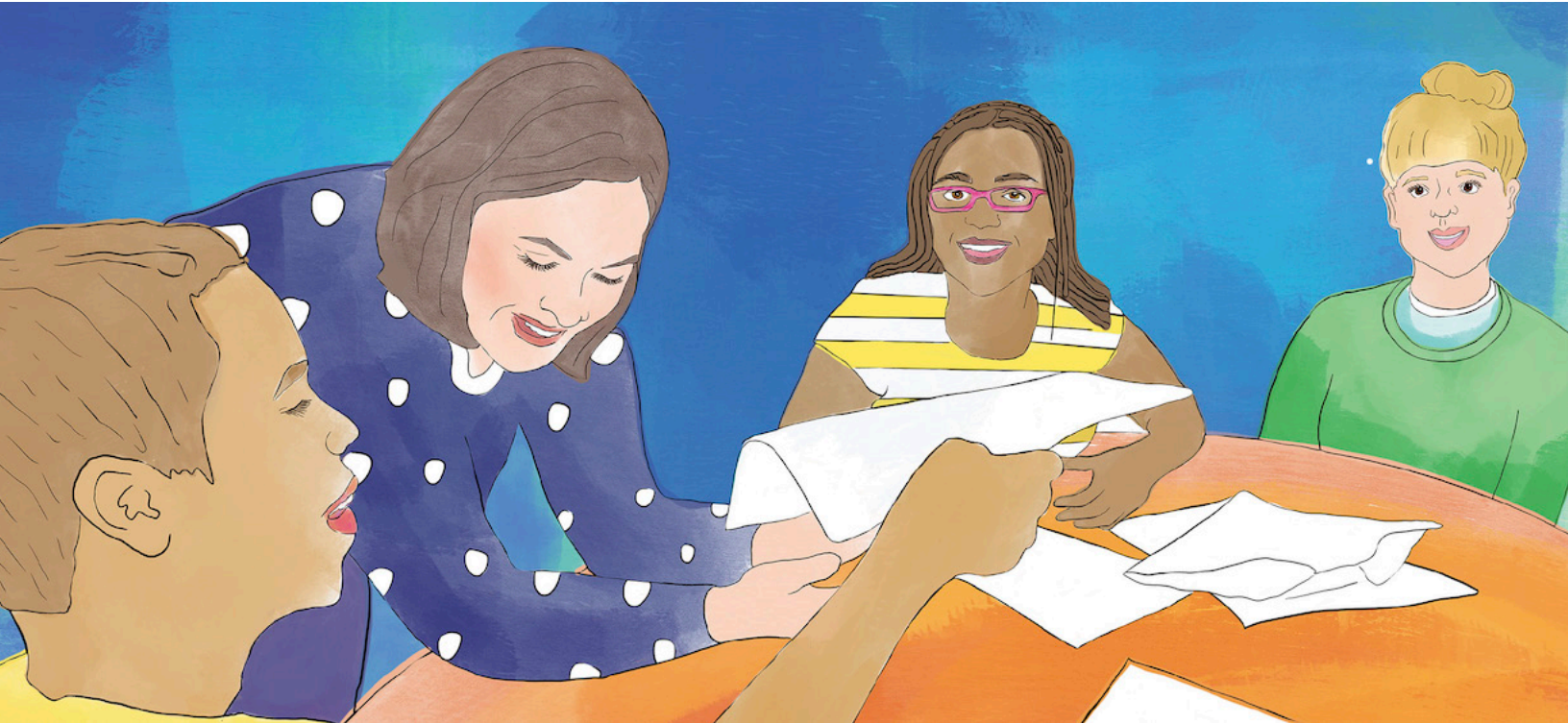


# DIFFERENTIATED READING LIST

Provided by Dr. Katie McKnight's Engaging Learners



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Dr. Katie McKnight*

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# DIFFERENTIATED READING LIST EXAMPLES

GRADE 5

## Center(s)

Reading Together

## Explanation of Reading Lists

Literacy and Learning Centers require you to divide your students into small groups. I recommend that you group students not based on ability, but based on the texts they choose. In other words, each student selects the text that most interests him/her, and is placed in a group with the other students who picked the same text. This doesn't mean anything goes! The teacher or curriculum director should supply a selection of texts that all address the same basic literary themes, cover the same content, or address the same essential question.

It's ok to start small. Work on adding one or two reading lists every year.

You'll see that giving students a choice in what to read brings about significant gains in their engagement, productivity, and growth. But maybe the greatest advantage of giving students a choice of reading material, is that students of varied ability levels and interests *all* have an opportunity to engage with their reading.

The **Text Complexity Model** has three equal components. Choosing which texts to include in your class reading lists means *you must do more than consider quantitative measures!*

The three components to consider are:

### 1. Quantitative Measures.

These factors are difficult or impossible for a person to evaluate efficiently so they are typically measured by computer software. Examples of quantitative measures include students' standardized test scores and a books' assigned Lexile scores.

### 2. Qualitative Dimensions.

These characteristics must be evaluated by a teacher. They include considering levels of meaning (for literary texts) or purpose (for informational texts), as well as structure, language conventionality and clarity, and knowledge demands.

### 3. Reader and Task Considerations.

This component is best evaluated by a teacher like you, who understands his or her students. It requires assessing the reader's motivation, knowledge, and experiences, as well as the assessing the purpose and complexity of a text.

# DIFFERENTIATED READING LIST EXAMPLES

GRADE 5

It helps to review examples of reading lists that other teachers have used effectively. Please use these examples as inspiration. Feel free to borrow what works and adapt as necessary to suit your needs and the needs of your students.

The book lists below represent a selection of fictional and non-fictional texts that are suitable for use with the Literacy and Learning Center model. The works listed were researched, vetted and chosen by the Chapters Group, a leading provider of hardcover and paperback literature as well as textbooks. More selections and materials are available at the **Chapters Group website at [chaptersgroup.com](http://chaptersgroup.com)**.

Explore the EngagingLearners.com website for other resources about differentiated reading (webinars, tips, etc.) to help you create your own reading lists.

Remember, coming up with reading lists is an on-going process. Even after you find a “perfect” booklist, realize that it may not be perfect forever. As you find new titles, as your school’s curriculum changes, and as student interests evolve, it’s likely you’ll want to make revisions and adjustments.

# DIFFERENTIATED READING LIST EXAMPLES

GRADE 5

| <b>Fifth Grade</b><br><b>Topic: Challenge Fiction</b>                      |   |                          |
|--|---|--------------------------|
| <b>Essential Question: Why is it important to leave your comfort zone?</b> |   |                          |
| <i>Text Complexity</i>   | <i>Book Title</i>   | <i>Author</i>            |
| 4th-7th grade  | Any Small Goodness: A Novel of the Barrio   | Tony Johnston            |
| 4th-7th grade  | Dangerous Waters: An Adventure on the Titanic   | Gregory Mone             |
| 5th-8th grade  | Elephant Run  | Roland Smith             |
| 4th-8th grade  | Found   | Margaret Peterson Haddix |
| 4th-6th grade  | Ida B: . . . and Her Plans to Maximize Fun, Avoid Disaster, and (Possibly) Save the World | Katherine Kannigan       |
| 4th-7th grade  | Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key  | Jack Gantos              |
| 4th-5th grade  | Jump Serve  | Jake Maddox              |
| 3rd-7th grade  | Lacrosse Firestorm  | Matt Christopher         |
| 3rd-5th grade  | The Lemonade War  | Jacqueline Davies        |
| 3rd-5th grade  | My Name is Maria Isabel   | Alma Flor Ada            |
| 3rd-6th grade  | No Talking  | Andrew Clements          |
| 3rd-7th grade  | On This Long Journey, the Journal of Jesse Smoke, A Cherokee Boy                          | Joseph Bruchac           |
| 4th-6th grade  | Out of My Mind  | Sharon M. Draper         |
| 3rd-7th grade  | Out of the Dust   | Karen Hesse              |
| 5th-8th grade  | Rivals  | Tim Green                |
| 2nd-5th grade  | Roughing It on the Oregon Trail   | Diane Stanley            |

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# DIFFERENTIATED READING LIST EXAMPLES

GRADE 5

|               |   |                         |
|---------------|---|-------------------------|
| 4th-7th grade | Shakespeare's Secret                                  | Elise Broach            |
| 5th-7th grade | Silhouetted by the Blue                               | Traci L. Jones          |
| 3rd-6th grade | Stone Fox   | John Reynolds Gardiner  |
| 5th-8th grade | The Fellowship for Alien Detection                    | Kevin Emerson           |
| 2nd-5th grade | The Mighty Miss Malone                                | Christopher Paul Curtis |
| 3rd-7th grade | The Troubles of Johnny Cannon                         | Isaiah Campbell         |
| 2nd-6th grade | The Year of the Panda                                 | Miriam Schlein          |
| 4th-7th grade | You Can't Have My Planet: But Take My Brother, Please | James Mihaley           |

| <b>Fifth Grade</b>  |  |                  |
|---|--|------------------|
| <i>Topic: New Experiences Non-Fiction</i>                         |  |                  |
| <i>Essential Question: How can we prepare for the unexpected?</i> |  |                  |
| <i>Text Complexity</i>  | <i>Book Title</i>  | <i>Author</i>    |
| 3rd-5th grade   | George Eastman and the Kodak Camera                                      | Jennifer Fandel  |
| 4th-7th grade   | Iditarod Dream: Dusty and His Sled Dogs Compete in Alaska's Jr. Iditarod | Ted Wood         |
| 4th-7th grade   | Orphan Train Rider: One Boy's True Story                                 | Andrea Warren    |
| 4th-7th grade   | Roller Coasters: From Concept to Consumer                                | Kevin Cunningham |
| 3rd-5th grade   | Skateboarding: How It Works  | Emily Sohn       |

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# DIFFERENTIATED READING LIST EXAMPLES

GRADE 5

| <b>Fifth Grade</b><br><i>Topic: Laws of Motion</i>                            |   |                   |
|---|---|-------------------|
| <b>Essential Question: What kinds of forces affect the motion of objects?</b> |   |                   |
| <i>Text Complexity</i>  | <i>Book Title</i>   | <i>Author</i>     |
| 2nd-5th grade   | Climbing and Diving: Forces of Motion                         | Lisa Greathouse   |
| 1st-5th grade   | Experiments in Forces and Motion with Toys and Everyday Stuff | Emily Sohn        |
| 4th-7th grade   | Forces and Motion: Investigating a Car Crash                  | Ian Graham        |
| 2nd-5th grade   | Isaac Newton  | Kay Barnham       |
| 3rd-5th grade   | Isaac Newton and the Laws of Motion                           | Andra Gianopoulos |
| 3rd-5th grade   | Super Cool Forces and Motion Activities with Max Axiom        | Agnieszka Biskup  |
| 5th-8th grade   | The Gripping Truth about Forces and Motion                    | Agnieszka Biskup  |
| 3rd-5th grade   | The Science of Baseball with Max Axiom, Super Scientist       | David L. Dreier   |
| 3rd-5th grade   | Thud!: Wile E. Coyote Experiments with Forces and Motion      | Mark Weakland     |
| 3rd-5th grade   | Vroom! Speed and Acceleration                                 | Stephanie Paris   |

# DIFFERENTIATED READING LIST EXAMPLES

GRADE 5

| <b>Fifth Grade</b>  |  |                       |
|---|--|-----------------------|
| <i>Topic: Scientific Discoveries and Historical Lives</i>                               |  |                       |
| <i>Essential Question: How are our lives different because of long ago discoveries?</i> |  |                       |
| <i>Text Complexity</i>  | <i>Book Title</i>                                    | <i>Author</i>         |
| 4th-8th grade   | A Medal for Leroy                                    | Michael Morpurgo      |
| 3rd-7th grade   | Big Bad Ironclad!                                    | Nathan Hale           |
| 4th-8th grade   | Black Pioneers of Science and Invention              | Louis Haber           |
| 4th-8th grade   | Children of the Great Depression                     | Russell Freedman      |
| 5th-8th grade   | Echo   | Pam Munoz Ryan        |
| 3rd-7th grade   | Electrical Wizard: How Nikola Tesla Lit Up the World | Elizabeth Rusch       |
| 5th-9th grade   | Fever 1793   | Laurie Halse Anderson |
| K-5th grade   | Fly High: The Story of Bessie Coleman                | Louise Borden         |
| 2nd-5th grade   | If You Lived 100 Years Ago                           | Ann McGovern          |
| 2nd-5th grade   | If You Lived in Colonial Times                       | Ann McGovern          |
| 4th-7th grade   | Laura Ingalls Wilder: A Biography                    | William Anderson      |
| 3rd-6th grade   | Mystery at Manzanar: A WWII Internment Camp Story    | Eric Fein             |
| 3rd-7th grade   | One Dead Spy   | Nathan Hale           |
| 4th-7th grade   | Out of the Darkness: The Story of Louis Braille      | Russell Freedman      |

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# DIFFERENTIATED READING LIST EXAMPLES

GRADE 5

|               |   |                    |
|---------------|---|--------------------|
| 1st-5th grade | I Survived the Battle of Gettysburg, 1863   | Lauren Tarshis     |
| 5th-9th grade | The Ransom of Mercy Carter  | Caroline B. Cooney |
| 5th-9th grade | The Voice That Challenged a Nation: Marian Anderson and the Struggle for Equal Rights | Russell Freedman   |
| 3rd-5th grade | Who Was Albert Einstein?  | Jess Brallier      |

| <b>Fifth Grade</b><br><i>Topic: Risk Fiction</i>                      |                         |                       |
|---|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| <i>Essential Question: What are the right kinds of risks to take?</i> |                         |                       |
| <i>Text Complexity</i>  | <i>Book Title</i>       | <i>Author</i>         |
| 4th-6th grade   | Aliens Ate My Homework  | Bruce Coville         |
| 3rd-7th grade   | Aliens on Vacation      | Cloie Barrett Smith   |
| 4th-7th grade   | Doll Bones              | I Holly Black         |
| 4th-7th grade   | Extra Credit            | Andrew Clements       |
| 4th-6th grade   | Hora and Ulysses        | Kate DiCamillo        |
| 3rd-7th grade   | Frightful's Mountain    | Jean Craighead George |
| 4th-7th grade   | Lawn Boy                | Gary Paulsen          |
| 4th-7th grade   | One Crazy Summer        | Rita Williams-Garcia  |
| 3rd-7th grade   | Ruby Holler             | Sharon Creech         |
| 5th-9th grade   | Semper Parvo            | C. Alexander London   |
| 5th-8th grade   | Summer at Forsaken Lake | Michael D. Bell       |
| 3rd-5th grade   | The Tale of Despereaux  | Kate DiCamillo        |
| 3rd-7th grade   | Walls Within Walls      | Maureen Sherry        |

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# DIFFERENTIATED READING LIST EXAMPLES

GRADE 5

| <b>Fifth Grade</b>  |  |                   |
|---|--|-------------------|
| <i>Topic: Risks and Perseverance Non-Fiction</i>                      |  |                   |
| <i>Essential Question: What do we learn when taking a risk fails?</i> |  |                   |
| <i>Text Complexity</i>  | <i>Book Title</i>  | <i>Author</i>     |
| 5th-7th grade   | Against All Odds   | Glenn Stout       |
| 4th-8th grade   | The California Gold Rush   | Peter Benoit      |
| 5th-8th grade   | Daring Play: How a Courageous Jackie Robinson Transformed Baseball | Michael Burgan    |
| 3rd-6th grade   | Interrupted Journey: Saving Endangered Sea Turtles                 | Kathryn Lasky     |
| 3rd-5th grade   | John Sutter and the California Gold Rush                           | Matt Doeden       |
| 1st-5th grade   | The Wright Brothers: Inventors Whose Ideas Really Took Flight      | Mike Venezia      |
| 3rd-7th grade   | The Wright Brothers: Pioneers of American Aviation                 | Quentin Reynolds  |
| 3rd-5th grade   | The Z-Boys and Skateboarding                                       | Jameson Anderson  |
| 4th-8th grade   | We Rode the Orphan Trains  | Andrea Warren     |
| 3rd-7th grade   | What Was The Lewis and Clark Expedition?                           | Judith St. George |

# DIFFERENTIATED READING LIST EXAMPLES

GRADE 5

| <b>Fifth Grade</b>  |                                     |                    |
|---|-------------------------------------|--------------------|
| <i>Topic: Environmental Issues Non-Fiction</i>                                      |                                     |                    |
| <i>Essential Question: What are the consequences of changes to the environment?</i> |                                     |                    |
| <i>Text Complexity</i>  | <i>Book Title</i>                   | <i>Author</i>      |
| 4th-6th grade   | Are Humans Damaging the Atmosphere? | Catherine Chambers |
| 2nd-6th grade   | Ask an Expert: Climate Change       | Richard Spilsbury  |
| 3rd-7th grade   | Climate Change                      | DK Publishing      |
| 4th-6th grade   | Coping With Population Growth       | Nicola Barber      |
| 4th-7th grade   | Plastic Pollution                   | Geof Knight        |
| 2nd-6th grade   | Reducing Pollution and Waste        | Jen Green          |
| 3rd-6th grade   | Superstorm Sandy                    | Lynn Peppas        |
| 2nd-6th grade   | Sustaining our Natural Resources    | Jen Green          |
| 2nd-5th grade   | What Can We Do about Acid Rain?     | David J. Jakubiak  |

# DIFFERENTIATED READING LIST EXAMPLES

GRADE 5

| <b>Fifth Grade</b><br><i>Topic: Ecosystems Non-Fiction</i>                             |   |                              |
|--|---|------------------------------|
| <i>Essential Question: How are ecosystems affected by the actions of human beings?</i> |   |                              |
| <i>Text Complexity</i>   | <i>Book Title</i>                                       | <i>Author</i>                |
| 4th-8th grade  | Climate Change: Discover How It Impacts Spaceship Earth | Joshua Sneiderman            |
| 1st-5th grade  | Deserts   | Gail Gibbons                 |
| 3rd-5th grade  | Endangered Oceans: Investigating Oceans in Crisis       | Jody S. Rake                 |
| 3rd-5th grade  | Exploring Ecosystems with Max Axiom, Super Scientist    | Agnieszka Biskup             |
| 4th-7th grade  | Extreme Animals: The Toughest Creatures on Earth        | Nicola Davies                |
| 4th-8th grade  | Inside Ecosystems and Biomes: Life Science              | Debra J. Housel              |
| 5th-7th grade  | Life and Non-Life in an Ecosystem                       | William B. Rice              |
| 4th-7th grade  | The Ocean Biome   | National Geographic Learning |
| 4th-8th grade  | Project Seahorse  | Pamela S. Turner             |
| 1st-5th grade  | Seymour Simon's Extreme Earth Records                   | Seymour Simon                |
| 1st-5th grade  | The Great Kapok Tree: A Tale of the Amazon Rain Forest  | Lynne Cherry                 |
| 3rd-7th grade  | The Plant Hunters                                       | Anita Silvey                 |
| 2nd-5th grade  | What If There Were No Lemmings?                         | Suzanne Slade                |
| 5th-9th grade  | World Without Fish                                      | Mark Kurlansky               |

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# DIFFERENTIATED READING LIST EXAMPLES

GRADE 5

| <b>Fifth Grade</b><br><i>Topic: General Mythology</i>                       |  |                              |
|---|--|------------------------------|
| <b>Essential Question: How do characters in mythology relate to nature?</b> |  |                              |
| <i>Text Complexity</i>  | <i>Book Title</i>  | <i>Author</i>                |
| 4th-7th grade   | Ali Baba: Fooling the Forty Thieves: An Arabian Tale             | Marie Croall                 |
| 4th-7th grade   | Amateratsu: Return of the Sun                                    | National Geographic Learning |
| 3rd-7th grade   | Beowulf: Monster Slayer: A British Legend                        | Paul D. Storrie              |
| 5th-8th grade   | Chinese Myths and Legends  | Anita Ganeri                 |
| 4th-8th grade   | Isis and Osiris: To the Ends of the Earth                        | Jeff Limke                   |
| 3rd-6th grade   | The Hero Twins: Against the Lords of Death                       | Dan Jolley                   |
| 3rd-6th grade   | The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe                             | C.S. Lewis                   |
| 4th-7th grade   | The Smoking Mountain: The Story of Popocatépetl and Iztaccíhuatl | Dan Jolley                   |
| 4th-6th grade   | Thor & Loki: In the Land of Giants                               | Jeff Limke                   |
| 4th-7th grade   | Yu the Great: Conquering the Flood: A Chinese Legend             | Paul D. Storrie              |

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# DIFFERENTIATED READING LIST EXAMPLES

GRADE 5

| <b>Fifth Grade</b><br><b>Topic: Greek Mythology</b>  |  |                  |
|--|--|------------------|
| <b>Essential Question: How are gods and heroes alike<br/>and different in Greek myths?</b> |  |                  |
| <i>Text Complexity</i>   | <i>Book Title</i>                          | <i>Author</i>    |
| 3rd-7th grade  | Amazing Greek Myths of Wonder and Blunders | Michael Townsend |
| 4th-9th grade  | Aphrodite: Goddess of Love                 | George O'Connor  |
| 4th-9th grade  | Apollo: The Brilliant One                  | George O'Connor  |
| 4th-9th grade  | Ares: Bringer of War                       | George O'Connor  |
| 4th-7th grade  | Atalanta: The Race Against Destiny         | Justine Fontes   |
| 4th-9th grade  | Athena: Grey-Eyed Goddess                  | George O'Connor  |
| 4th-8th grade  | Get Lost, Odysseus!                        | Kate McMullan    |
| 4th-9th grade  | Hades: Lord of the Dead                    | George O'Connor  |
| 5th-9th grade  | Hera: The Goddess and Her Glory            | George O'Connor  |
| 3rd-7th grade  | Percy Jackson's Greek Gods                 | Rick Riordan     |
| 4th-8th grade  | Phone Home, Persephone!                    | Kate McMullan    |
| 5th-9th grade  | Poseidon: Earth Shaker                     | George O'Connor  |
| 3rd-5th grade  | Theseus and the Minotaur                   | Nel Yomtov       |
| 5th-9th grade  | Zeus: King of the Gods                     | George O'Connor  |

# DIFFERENTIATED READING LIST EXAMPLES

GRADE 5

| <b>Fifth Grade</b><br><i>Topic: Immigration</i>   |  |                      |
|---|--|----------------------|
| <b>Essential Question: How do traditions change and stay the same when people move?</b> |  |                      |
| <i>Text Complexity</i>  | <i>Book Title</i>  | <i>Author</i>        |
| 5th-8th grade   | A House of Tailors   | Patricia Reilly Giff |
| 4th-8th grade   | Angel Island Immigration                                   | Jamie Kallio         |
| 5th-8th grade   | Bread and Roses, Too                                       | Katherine Paterson   |
| 5th-10th grade  | Flesh and Blood So Cheap: The Triangle Fire and Its Legacy | Albert Marrin        |
| 2nd-5th grade   | If Your Name Was Changed at Ellis Island                   | Ellen Levine         |
| 4th-7th grade   | Letters from Rifka   | Karen Hesse          |
| 4th-8th grade   | Lyddie   | Katherine Paterson   |
| 3rd-7th grade   | Maggie's Door  | Patricia Reilly Giff |
| 3rd-6th grade   | Migration from Africa                                      | Kevin Cunningham     |
| 6th-8th grade   | Something About America                                    | Maria Testa          |

|               |                        |                         |
|---------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| 5th-9th grade | The Brooklyn Nine      | Alan M. Gratz           |
| 2nd-5th grade | The Lotus Seed         | Sherry Garland          |
| 3rd-6th grade | The Sign of the Beaver | Elizabeth George Speare |
| 4th-7th grade | Walk the Wild Road     | Nigel Hinton            |