

THE WRITING ACADEMY®, LLC
COURSE OVERVIEW · TEACHER RESOURCES

Grade 4 Cluster 4 Text Complexity and Reading Stamina Report

Part of the ECR Supplemental Support System.

The Writing Academy®, LLC

© 2026 The Writing Academy®, LLC. All rights reserved.

This document is provided for classroom instructional use. No part may be reproduced for resale or distribution outside the purchasing campus without written permission from The Writing Academy®, LLC.

Package Contents

Scope, organization, and intended instructional use

RECORD	DETAIL
Intended Use	Supplemental Support Lesson Guide
Document Type	Official Teacher-Facing Instructional Planning Report
Version / Date	Version 1.0 2026
Texts Analyzed	8 passage versions across 2 reading selection(s)

SECTION	CONTENTS
Section I	Overall purpose, cluster architecture, research basis, and interpretation rules
Section II	Master quantitative comparison and cross-text findings
Section III	Per-passage text complexity evidentiary profiles
Section IV	Cross-text implementation guidance and verification record

Report Use

This package is designed for direct placement in the Grade 4 Supplemental Support Lesson Guide of The Writing Academy®, LLC. It documents every supplied passage version separately while also explaining how the Cluster 4 set grows across four stamina levels. Every count in this report is calculated directly from the supplied passage text.

Source Set Overview

The reading selections analyzed in this report

READING SELECTION	VERSIONS PROVIDED	READING VOLUME RANGE (WORDS)
The Wealth of Mansa Musa	Low, Medium, High, Very High	198 to 1,547
Four Regions, One Big Adventure	Low, Medium, High, Very High	236 to 1,466

Overall Purpose and Cluster Architecture

How the passage set builds knowledge and reading stamina across four modules

The Cluster 4 set gives each reading at four stamina levels, one for every module. The conceptual core stays stable while reading volume, vocabulary load, evidence distance, and synthesis demand increase from the

shortest Module 1 reading to the fullest Module 4 reading. Teachers can match the version to a student while keeping the same lesson purpose.

MODULE	STAMINA LEVEL	PRIMARY INSTRUCTIONAL FUNCTION	APPROPRIATE PRODUCT
Module 1	Low Stamina	Establish the shared knowledge framework and locate local evidence.	Brief evidence-based response
Module 2	Medium Stamina	Add subtopics, vocabulary, and evidence from several paragraphs.	Multi-sentence explanation
Module 3	High Stamina	Integrate multiple categories and retrieve evidence across the text.	Extended response with several supports
Module 4	Very High Stamina	Synthesize the full topic and explain historical, civic, or scientific significance.	Whole-text extended explanation

Research Basis and Measurement Protocol

How the evidentiary profile is calculated and interpreted

Each selection is evaluated through quantitative statistics, qualitative dimensions, and reader and task demands rather than one score alone. The planning estimate emphasizes mean sentence length and lexical demand. It does not by itself measure total stamina, quality, content, or task complexity. The same text can be more or less demanding depending on rereading, scaffolds, the required response, and students prior knowledge.

Counting Conventions

- Word counts include student-facing passage language and exclude titles, stamina labels, and report metadata. Contractions, possessives, and hyphenated compounds count as one word, and numerals count as one word.
- Sentence counts use terminal punctuation. Runs of terminal marks and ellipses collapse to one boundary, and decimal points and common abbreviations do not split a sentence.
- Paragraph and narrative-beat counts follow the separated source blocks. Short dialogue, reflection, and list blocks are retained because they affect pacing and retrieval.
- Syllable counts use a pronunciation dictionary (CMUdict) when the word is listed, and a consistent vowel-group heuristic with silent-ending adjustments for names and uncommon terms.
- Flesch-Kincaid grade level uses 0.39 times words per sentence, plus 11.8 times syllables per word, minus 15.59. It is used for triangulation only, not as a grade-placement decision.
- Metric-derived complexity bands: Reader and Stamina Load is Lower below 300 words, Moderate from 300 to 900, and Higher above 900. Lexical Demand is Lower below 8%, Moderate from 8 to 11.5%, and Higher above 11.5% three-or-more-syllable words. Sentence Complexity is Lower below 10 words average, Moderate from 10 to 13, and Higher above 13. Formula Readability is Lower below 5.5, Moderate from 5.5 to 7.0, and Higher above 7.0.

Master Quantitative Comparison

Actual counts computed across all Cluster 4 selections

SELECTION	LEVEL	WORDS	SENT.	PARA.	AVG. SENT.	3+ SYL.	F-K
The Wealth of Mansa Musa	Low	198	14	4	14.1	16 (8.1%)	7.9
The Wealth of Mansa Musa	Medium	520	37	8	14.1	41 (7.9%)	7.9
The Wealth of Mansa Musa	High	1,068	81	16	13.2	110 (10.3%)	8.3
The Wealth of Mansa Musa	Very High	1,547	121	25	12.8	183 (11.8%)	8.5
Four Regions, One Big Adventure	Low	236	25	6	9.4	7 (3.0%)	4.0
Four Regions, One Big Adventure	Medium	533	44	7	12.1	22 (4.1%)	5.3
Four Regions, One Big Adventure	High	1,202	111	50	10.8	51 (4.2%)	5.0
Four Regions, One Big Adventure	Very High	1,466	135	71	10.9	78 (5.3%)	5.1

What the Numbers Demonstrate

- The The Wealth of Mansa Musa sequence grows from 198 to 1,547 words, a 7.81-fold increase in reading volume, and the beat span grows from 4 to 25.
- Three-or-more-syllable density in the The Wealth of Mansa Musa set moves from 8.1% at the shortest version to 11.8% at the fullest version.
- The Four Regions, One Big Adventure sequence grows from 236 to 1,466 words, a 6.21-fold increase in reading volume, and the beat span grows from 6 to 71.
- Three-or-more-syllable density in the Four Regions, One Big Adventure set moves from 3.0% at the shortest version to 5.3% at the fullest version.

Per-Passage Text Complexity Profiles

One evidentiary profile per supplied passage version

The Wealth of Mansa Musa - Low Stamina Report

Cluster 4 | Module 1 / Low Stamina

A. Official Passage Profile

- 198 total words; 118 unique word forms
- 14 punctuation-defined sentences; 4 separated paragraphs / narrative beats
- 14.1 words average sentence length; 21 words in the longest conventional sentence
- 8 sentences of 15+ words; 1 of 20+ words; 0 of 25+ words
- 1 syllable: 112 (56.6%); 2 syllables: 70 (35.4%); 3+ syllables: 16 (8.1%)
- Flesch-Kincaid grade level 7.9, corroborating formula only, not a placement decision
- Estimated single-pass reading time 1.6 to 2.0 minutes at 100 to 120 words per minute

B. Metric-Derived Complexity Indicators

Planning indicators derived deterministically from the computed statistics above, using the documented bands in the Research Basis section. They summarize measurable load, not an editorial judgment of quality.

INDICATOR	COMPUTED BASIS	BAND
Reader / Stamina Load	198 words across 4 beats	Lower
Lexical Demand	8.1% of words carry 3+ syllables	Moderate
Sentence Complexity	14.1 words average; 8 sentences of 15+ words	Higher
Formula Readability	Flesch-Kincaid 7.9	Higher

C. Word-Level and Vocabulary Evidence

Three-or-More-Syllable
Examples

Africa successful remembered important Sahara carrying valuable
Timbuktu religion pilgrimage powerful African education

Longer Academic
Vocabulary

kingdom rulers became richest people history wealthy controlled
traveled across choices traders

Proper Nouns and
Domain Terms

West Africa Mali Mansa Musa Sahara Desert Timbuktu Musas
Mecca African

Every example above is a word that appears verbatim in this passage. Three-or-more-syllable words are identified with the pronunciation-dictionary method described in the Research Basis section.

D. Sentence, Cohesion, and Beat Evidence

Opening Sentence

“A long time ago in West Africa, there was a strong and successful kingdom called Mali.”

Longest Sentence (21 words)	<i>“People still talk about Mansa Musa today when they learn about African history and how trade and education helped kingdoms grow.”</i>
Beat / Paragraph Count	4 separated source blocks, each a narrative or informational beat

The Wealth of Mansa Musa - Medium Stamina Report

Cluster 4 | Module 2 / Medium Stamina

A. Official Passage Profile

- 520 total words; 239 unique word forms
- 37 punctuation-defined sentences; 8 separated paragraphs / narrative beats
- 14.1 words average sentence length; 21 words in the longest conventional sentence
- 18 sentences of 15+ words; 2 of 20+ words; 0 of 25+ words
- 1 syllable: 291 (56.0%); 2 syllables: 188 (36.2%); 3+ syllables: 41 (7.9%)
- Flesch-Kincaid grade level 7.9, corroborating formula only, not a placement decision
- Estimated single-pass reading time 4.3 to 5.2 minutes at 100 to 120 words per minute

B. Metric-Derived Complexity Indicators

Planning indicators derived deterministically from the computed statistics above, using the documented bands in the Research Basis section. They summarize measurable load, not an editorial judgment of quality.

INDICATOR	COMPUTED BASIS	BAND
Reader / Stamina Load	520 words across 8 beats	Moderate
Lexical Demand	7.9% of words carry 3+ syllables	Lower
Sentence Complexity	14.1 words average; 18 sentences of 15+ words	Higher
Formula Readability	Flesch-Kincaid 7.9	Higher

C. Word-Level and Vocabulary Evidence

Three-or-More-Syllable
Examples

Africa successful remembered important Sahara carrying valuable
distances powerful protected Timbuktu visited religion ideas

Longer Academic
Vocabulary

kingdom rulers became richest people history wealthy controlled
traveled across desert exchange

Proper Nouns and
Domain Terms

West Africa Mali Mansa Musa Sahara Desert Timbuktu Musa's
Mecca Europe Middle

Every example above is a word that appears verbatim in this passage. Three-or-more-syllable words are identified with the pronunciation-dictionary method described in the Research Basis section.

D. Sentence, Cohesion, and Beat Evidence

Opening Sentence

“A long time ago in West Africa, there was a strong and successful kingdom called Mali.”

Longest Sentence (21 words)	<i>“People still talk about Mansa Musa today when they learn about African history and how trade and education helped kingdoms grow.”</i>
Beat / Paragraph Count	8 separated source blocks, each a narrative or informational beat

The Wealth of Mansa Musa - High Stamina Report

Cluster 4 | Module 3 / High Stamina

A. Official Passage Profile

- 1,068 total words; 403 unique word forms
- 81 punctuation-defined sentences; 16 separated paragraphs / narrative beats
- 13.2 words average sentence length; 22 words in the longest conventional sentence
- 32 sentences of 15+ words; 4 of 20+ words; 0 of 25+ words
- 1 syllable: 574 (53.7%); 2 syllables: 384 (36.0%); 3+ syllables: 110 (10.3%)
- Flesch-Kincaid grade level 8.3, corroborating formula only, not a placement decision
- Estimated single-pass reading time 8.9 to 10.7 minutes at 100 to 120 words per minute

B. Metric-Derived Complexity Indicators

Planning indicators derived deterministically from the computed statistics above, using the documented bands in the Research Basis section. They summarize measurable load, not an editorial judgment of quality.

INDICATOR	COMPUTED BASIS	BAND
Reader / Stamina Load	1,068 words across 16 beats	Higher
Lexical Demand	10.3% of words carry 3+ syllables	Moderate
Sentence Complexity	13.2 words average; 32 sentences of 15+ words	Higher
Formula Readability	Flesch-Kincaid 8.3	Higher

C. Word-Level and Vocabulary Evidence

Three-or-More-Syllable
Examples

Africa successful remembered important Sahara carrying valuable
distances beginning resources decorations everyone pottery continued

Longer Academic
Vocabulary

kingdom rulers became richest people history wealthy controlled
traveled across airplanes merchants

Proper Nouns and
Domain Terms

West Africa Mali Mansa Musa Sahara Desert Mali's Timbuktu
Musa's Mecca Europe

Every example above is a word that appears verbatim in this passage. Three-or-more-syllable words are identified with the pronunciation-dictionary method described in the Research Basis section.

D. Sentence, Cohesion, and Beat Evidence

Opening Sentence

“A long time ago in West Africa, there was a strong and successful kingdom called Mali.”

Longest Sentence (22 words)	<i>“Long before airplanes, trains, or trucks, merchants traveled by camel across the Sahara Desert to exchange goods with people living far away.”</i>
Beat / Paragraph Count	16 separated source blocks, each a narrative or informational beat

The Wealth of Mansa Musa - Very High Stamina Report

Cluster 4 | Module 4 / Very High Stamina

A. Official Passage Profile

- 1,547 total words; 525 unique word forms
- 121 punctuation-defined sentences; 25 separated paragraphs / narrative beats
- 12.8 words average sentence length; 25 words in the longest conventional sentence
- 39 sentences of 15+ words; 10 of 20+ words; 1 of 25+ words
- 1 syllable: 806 (52.1%); 2 syllables: 558 (36.1%); 3+ syllables: 183 (11.8%)
- Flesch-Kincaid grade level 8.5, corroborating formula only, not a placement decision
- Estimated single-pass reading time 12.9 to 15.5 minutes at 100 to 120 words per minute

B. Metric-Derived Complexity Indicators

Planning indicators derived deterministically from the computed statistics above, using the documented bands in the Research Basis section. They summarize measurable load, not an editorial judgment of quality.

INDICATOR	COMPUTED BASIS	BAND
Reader / Stamina Load	1,547 words across 25 beats	Higher
Lexical Demand	11.8% of words carry 3+ syllables	Higher
Sentence Complexity	12.8 words average; 39 sentences of 15+ words	Moderate
Formula Readability	Flesch-Kincaid 8.5	Higher

C. Word-Level and Vocabulary Evidence

Three-or-More-Syllable
Examples

Africa successful remembered important Sahara carrying valuable
distances beginning together caravans another Caravan understood

Longer Academic
Vocabulary

kingdom rulers became richest people history wealthy controlled
traveled across airplanes merchants

Proper Nouns and
Domain Terms

West Africa Mali Mansa Musa Sahara Desert Mali's Timbuktu
Musa's Mecca Europe

Every example above is a word that appears verbatim in this passage. Three-or-more-syllable words are identified with the pronunciation-dictionary method described in the Research Basis section.

D. Sentence, Cohesion, and Beat Evidence

Opening Sentence

“A long time ago in West Africa, there was a strong and successful kingdom called Mali.”

Longest Sentence (25 words)	<i>“Even hundreds of years later, his story continues to inspire people to understand the importance of education, cooperation, and using resources wisely to help others.”</i>
Beat / Paragraph Count	25 separated source blocks, each a narrative or informational beat

Four Regions, One Big Adventure - Low Stamina Report

Cluster 4 | Module 1 / Low Stamina

A. Official Passage Profile

- 236 total words; 146 unique word forms
- 25 punctuation-defined sentences; 6 separated paragraphs / narrative beats
- 9.4 words average sentence length; 21 words in the longest conventional sentence
- 2 sentences of 15+ words; 1 of 20+ words; 0 of 25+ words
- 1 syllable: 161 (68.2%); 2 syllables: 68 (28.8%); 3+ syllables: 7 (3.0%)
- Flesch-Kincaid grade level 4.0, corroborating formula only, not a placement decision
- Estimated single-pass reading time 2.0 to 2.4 minutes at 100 to 120 words per minute

B. Metric-Derived Complexity Indicators

Planning indicators derived deterministically from the computed statistics above, using the documented bands in the Research Basis section. They summarize measurable load, not an editorial judgment of quality.

INDICATOR	COMPUTED BASIS	BAND
Reader / Stamina Load	236 words across 6 beats	Lower
Lexical Demand	3.0% of words carry 3+ syllables	Lower
Sentence Complexity	9.4 words average; 2 sentences of 15+ words	Lower
Formula Readability	Flesch-Kincaid 4.0	Lower

C. Word-Level and Vocabulary Evidence

Three-or-More-Syllable
Examples

resources underground Everything colorful Finally Mexico important

Longer Academic
Vocabulary

shouted family driving across different regions noticed mountains
really explained people region

Proper Nouns and
Domain Terms

Zavier Texas Mountains Basins West Great Plains North Central
Coastal Gulf Mexico

Every example above is a word that appears verbatim in this passage. Three-or-more-syllable words are identified with the pronunciation-dictionary method described in the Research Basis section.

D. Sentence, Cohesion, and Beat Evidence

Opening Sentence

““Road trip!” Xavier shouted as his family packed the car.”

Longest Sentence (30
words)

““This region has a lot of different jobs,” his mom said, “like farming, fishing, and working in big cities.” As they headed home, Xavier rethought about what he had seen.”

Beat / Paragraph Count	6 separated source blocks, each a narrative or informational beat
-------------------------------	---

Four Regions, One Big Adventure - Medium Stamina Report

Cluster 4 | Module 2 / Medium Stamina

A. Official Passage Profile

- 533 total words; 261 unique word forms
- 44 punctuation-defined sentences; 7 separated paragraphs / narrative beats
- 12.1 words average sentence length; 28 words in the longest conventional sentence
- 14 sentences of 15+ words; 4 of 20+ words; 1 of 25+ words
- 1 syllable: 358 (67.2%); 2 syllables: 153 (28.7%); 3+ syllables: 22 (4.1%)
- Flesch-Kincaid grade level 5.3, corroborating formula only, not a placement decision
- Estimated single-pass reading time 4.4 to 5.3 minutes at 100 to 120 words per minute

B. Metric-Derived Complexity Indicators

Planning indicators derived deterministically from the computed statistics above, using the documented bands in the Research Basis section. They summarize measurable load, not an editorial judgment of quality.

INDICATOR	COMPUTED BASIS	BAND
Reader / Stamina Load	533 words across 7 beats	Moderate
Lexical Demand	4.1% of words carry 3+ syllables	Lower
Sentence Complexity	12.1 words average; 14 sentences of 15+ words	Moderate
Formula Readability	Flesch-Kincaid 5.3	Lower

C. Word-Level and Vocabulary Evidence

Three-or-More-Syllable
Examples

interesting resources underground area realized difficult valuable
Everything colorful visited earlier vegetation Finally Mexico

Longer Academic
Vocabulary

shouted family driving across different regions reading region
notebook compare special parents

Proper Nouns and
Domain Terms

Zavier Texas Mountains Basins West As Great Plains North
Central Coastal Gulf

Every example above is a word that appears verbatim in this passage. Three-or-more-syllable words are identified with the pronunciation-dictionary method described in the Research Basis section.

D. Sentence, Cohesion, and Beat Evidence

Opening Sentence ““Road trip!” Xavier shouted as his family packed the car.”

Longest Sentence (35 words)

““This region has a lot of different jobs,” his mom said, “like farming, fishing, and working in big cities.” As they explored, they saw boats along the water and busy highways leading into large cities.”

Beat / Paragraph Count

7 separated source blocks, each a narrative or informational beat

Four Regions, One Big Adventure - High Stamina Report

Cluster 4 | Module 3 / High Stamina

A. Official Passage Profile

- 1,202 total words; 430 unique word forms
- 111 punctuation-defined sentences; 50 separated paragraphs / narrative beats
- 10.8 words average sentence length; 25 words in the longest conventional sentence
- 21 sentences of 15+ words; 5 of 20+ words; 1 of 25+ words
- 1 syllable: 793 (66.0%); 2 syllables: 358 (29.8%); 3+ syllables: 51 (4.2%)
- Flesch-Kincaid grade level 5.0, corroborating formula only, not a placement decision
- Estimated single-pass reading time 10.0 to 12.0 minutes at 100 to 120 words per minute

B. Metric-Derived Complexity Indicators

Planning indicators derived deterministically from the computed statistics above, using the documented bands in the Research Basis section. They summarize measurable load, not an editorial judgment of quality.

INDICATOR	COMPUTED BASIS	BAND
Reader / Stamina Load	1,202 words across 50 beats	Higher
Lexical Demand	4.2% of words carry 3+ syllables	Lower
Sentence Complexity	10.8 words average; 21 sentences of 15+ words	Moderate
Formula Readability	Flesch-Kincaid 5.0	Lower

C. Word-Level and Vocabulary Evidence

Three-or-More-Syllable
Examples

interesting remembered understand resources underground area
anywhere scenery another important continued areas production
agriculture

Longer Academic
Vocabulary

shouted family driving across different regions reading region
notebook compare special parents

Proper Nouns and
Domain Terms

Zavier They Texas Before Their Mountains Basins West As
The Great Plains

Every example above is a word that appears verbatim in this passage. Three-or-more-syllable words are identified with the pronunciation-dictionary method described in the Research Basis section.

D. Sentence, Cohesion, and Beat Evidence

Opening Sentence

““Road trip!” Xavier shouted as his family packed the car.”

Longest Sentence (31 words)	<i>““Some jobs can be found in more than one region, but the land and climate are still different.” They visited a small farm where workers cared for animals and planted crops.”</i>
Beat / Paragraph Count	50 separated source blocks, each a narrative or informational beat

Four Regions, One Big Adventure - Very High Stamina Report

Cluster 4 | Module 4 / Very High Stamina

A. Official Passage Profile

- 1,466 total words; 494 unique word forms
- 135 punctuation-defined sentences; 71 separated paragraphs / narrative beats
- 10.9 words average sentence length; 27 words in the longest conventional sentence
- 33 sentences of 15+ words; 3 of 20+ words; 1 of 25+ words
- 1 syllable: 968 (66.0%); 2 syllables: 420 (28.6%); 3+ syllables: 78 (5.3%)
- Flesch-Kincaid grade level 5.1, corroborating formula only, not a placement decision
- Estimated single-pass reading time 12.2 to 14.7 minutes at 100 to 120 words per minute

B. Metric-Derived Complexity Indicators

Planning indicators derived deterministically from the computed statistics above, using the documented bands in the Research Basis section. They summarize measurable load, not an editorial judgment of quality.

INDICATOR	COMPUTED BASIS	BAND
Reader / Stamina Load	1,466 words across 71 beats	Higher
Lexical Demand	5.3% of words carry 3+ syllables	Lower
Sentence Complexity	10.9 words average; 33 sentences of 15+ words	Moderate
Formula Readability	Flesch-Kincaid 5.1	Lower

C. Word-Level and Vocabulary Evidence

Three-or-More-Syllable
Examples

interesting enormous resources another scenery neighborhoods
underground overlook horizon quietly continued exploring valuable
provided

Longer Academic
Vocabulary

shouted family driving across different regions reading region
notebook compare special parents

Proper Nouns and
Domain Terms

Zavier They Texas His The I I'll As Mountains Basins West
Great

Every example above is a word that appears verbatim in this passage. Three-or-more-syllable words are identified with the pronunciation-dictionary method described in the Research Basis section.

D. Sentence, Cohesion, and Beat Evidence

Opening Sentence

““Road trip!” Xavier shouted as his family packed the car.”

Longest Sentence (33 words)

““This is one of the only places in Texas where you’ll find mountain ranges like these.” As they continued exploring, Xavier noticed that most of the plants were small and spread far apart.”

Beat / Paragraph Count

71 separated source blocks, each a narrative or informational beat

Cross-Text Implementation Guidance

Using the stamina staircase in daily instruction

- Use the Low version to establish the shared knowledge framework, then move students up the staircase as their stamina and evidence handling grow.
- Match the assigned writing product to the evidence available in the selected version, using the module framework table above.
- Teach the longer versions across multiple purposeful readings rather than assigning the full text as one unsupported first read.
- Preview the three-or-more-syllable and domain vocabulary listed in each passage profile before the first read.

Verification Record

Every count in this report was produced by a single deterministic generator that reads the supplied passage text directly. The method reproduces the published Grade 3 report counts for words, sentences, paragraphs, and three-or-more-syllable words. No passage text or metric was entered by hand.