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This product was designed to give my students practice comprehending nonfiction text through “close readings”. I love teaching through the holidays, so I’ve created a way to integrate reading with learning about holidays around the world.

This is not a “how to” guide for close reading. Instead, this product contains ten passages that can be used for close reading practice. There are three different versions of each passage, so you will have similar content for students on, above, and below grade level. I have leveled each passage using the Lexile Analyzer, and the range of reading levels is from 600 to 1,010. All countries include at least one passage on a third grade reading level.

Each passage comes with three sets of close reading directions and questions. With each read, students will be asked to highlight and make notes in the text and will be asked questions that become more challenging with each read. I have included answer keys for the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> set of questions only, since answers will vary greatly for the third set of questions.

\*Be sure to pick up a FREE close read activity for Christmas in the United States here!

# Reading Levels Conversion Chart

Grade Level	Lexile	Fountas & Pinnell	DRA
1 <sup>st</sup>	up to 300	E	8
1 <sup>st</sup>	up to 300	F	10
1 <sup>st</sup>	up to 300	G	12
1 <sup>st</sup>	80-450	H	14
1 <sup>st</sup>	80-450	I	16
1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup>	80-450	J	18
2 <sup>nd</sup>	501-550	K	20
2 <sup>nd</sup>	551-600	L	24
2 <sup>nd</sup>	551-650	M	28
3 <sup>rd</sup>	520-730	N	30
3 <sup>rd</sup>	520-770	O	34
3 <sup>rd</sup>	520-820	p	38
4 <sup>th</sup>	740-900	Q	40
4 <sup>th</sup>	740-940	R	40
5 <sup>th</sup>	830-1010	S	40
5 <sup>th</sup>	830-1010	T	40
5 <sup>th</sup>	830-1010	U-W	50
6 <sup>th</sup>	925-1070	W+	
7 <sup>th</sup>	970-1120	W+	

# 10 Differentiated Reading Passages

## AUSTRALIA

lexile  
1000

It is hard to believe that in Australia, Christmas comes in the middle of summer! Since Australia is in the southern hemisphere, it is summertime during December. In Australia, it is not unusual to have Christmas around 100 degrees. The warm weather allows for the tradition of Carols by Candlelight every year on Christmas Eve. Thousands of people meet outdoors in large cities to light candles and sing their favorite Christmas songs. Many of the words to Christmas songs have been changed from talking about snow to native Australian words.

## AUSTRALIA

lexile  
820

In Australia, Christmas comes in the middle of summer! Australia is in the southern hemisphere, so it is summertime during December. It can be around 100 degrees on Christmas Day. The warm weather lets Australians enjoy Carols by Candlelight. This event takes place on Christmas Eve. Thousands of people meet outdoors to light candles and sing their favorite Christmas songs. Many of the words to Christmas songs have been changed from talking about snow to Australian words and lights. Christmas trees are green.

## AUSTRALIA

lexile  
700

In Australia, Christmas comes in the middle of summer! It can be around 100 degrees on Christmas Day. The warm weather lets Australians have many special traditions. A favorite, is Carols by Candlelight. This takes place on Christmas Eve. People meet in large cities to light candles and sing their favorite Christmas songs.

Australians hang wreaths on their front doors and decorate their houses with Christmas trees and lights. Australians also decorate their homes with Christmas Bush. This is a tree with small green leaves and cream colored flowers. Most families try to be home together for Christmas. A meal includes turkey, ham, and pork. A Christmas plum pudding is often served for dessert.

When Santa gets to Australia, he gives the reindeer a rest and uses kangaroos instead of his reindeer. He also changes his winter clothes for clothing made for hot weather. Some people even say that Santa surfs in to Australia.



Christmas Bush

3 Lexile Levels for each passage

flowers. Most families try to be home together for Christmas. A common meal includes turkey, ham, and pork. A Christmas plum pudding is often served for dessert.

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Christmas Bush

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# Close Reading Questions

 Name \_\_\_\_\_

**AUSTRALIA**

- Read the entire passage.
- Write any interesting observations or notes in the left margin.
- Write any questions you have about the text in the right margin.
- Answer the questions below. When you answer a question, be sure to write the question number beside the text evidence you used to answer the question.

**1st Read**

1. What is the text mostly about?

2. When does Carols by Candlelight take place?

3. What dish is often served for dessert?

4. What might Santa use instead of reindeer?

 Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_


**AUSTRALIA**

- Reread the entire passage.
- Highlight 3-5 key words.
- Circle any words that you do not know.
- Answer the next three questions. When you answer a question, be sure to write the question number beside the text evidence you used to answer the question.

**2nd Read**

1. What nonfiction text feature did the author use, and how did it help you understand the text?

2. Name a key word you highlighted. Why did you select that word?

 Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**AUSTRALIA**

- Reread the entire passage.
- Write a small C beside ideas you could make a connection with.
- Write a + where you were able to add new information to your existing knowledge.
- Answer the last question in paragraph form.

**3rd Read**

1. How is Christmas in Australia similar and different to Christmas where you live?

the 2nd paragraph?

**1st Read, 2nd Read & 3rd Read**

