

# Characters Who Face Problems

## Text Set

### Overview

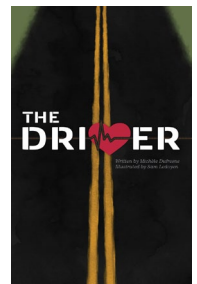
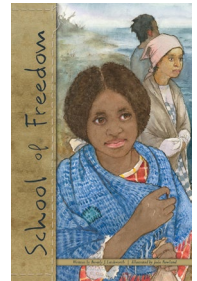
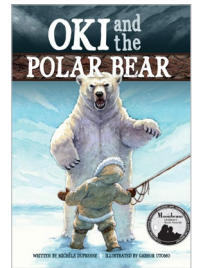
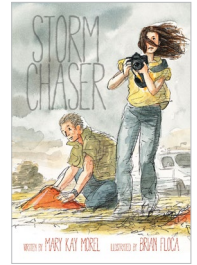
This text set of fictional stories was created to show how characters in a story respond to important events and challenges. Reading these fictional stories will help readers understand what motivates characters and how their actions contribute to events in stories.

Characters Who Face Problems		
Title	Lexile® Measure*	Level
Storm Chaser	660L	N
Oki and the Polar Bear	540L	N
Talent Sprouts	540L	O
School of Freedom	780L	P
The Driver	660L	S
The Flying Test	710L	T

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### Synopsis of Each Text

- **Storm Chaser:** Emily and her dad set out to collect data from tornadoes and are suddenly caught in a monstrous twister. Read to find out how they face the challenge of this unpredictable tornado.
- **Oki and the Polar Bear:** Oki is an 11-year-old boy about to go on his first polar bear hunt with his father. When Oki sees the polar bear, things do not go as planned. Read to find out how Oki faces this challenge.
- **Talent Sprouts:** In this story, a young girl plays the piano in a televised contest. She is nervous, so she only tells her family and music teacher that she's been selected to perform. Read to find out what happens during her performance and who else ends up seeing the show.
- **School of Freedom:** Aramay is a young girl who dreams of being a teacher, but getting an education is a challenge for her. Read to find out what happens when her secret school is discovered.
- **The Driver:** Ben and Zack have just finished a ten-mile hike with Zack's dad. Suddenly, Zack's dad has trouble breathing. Read to find out how Ben takes a tremendous risk to help Zack's dad.
- **The Flying Test:** In this futuristic story, a boy named Antrik wants to be a famous aviator like his dad, but he is anxious about passing his flying test. Read to find out what happens on the day of his test.



## Key Vocabulary from Each Text

Storm Chaser	Oki and the Polar Bear	Talent Sprouts	School of Freedom	The Driver	The Flying Test
gulp (2)	nanook (2)	unforgettable (3)	riverbank (2)	clutched (2)	aviator (2)
twisters (3)	revenge (2)	confidence (4)	anticipation (3)	perspiration (2)	illustrious (2)
funnel cloud (4)	sternly (4)	performance (7)	bulge (3)	frantically (3)	debrief (3)
probes (4)	trudged (8)	relieved (9)	authorities (5)	indecision (4)	deployed (4)
quiver (5)	groaned (9)	sympathy (9)	parchment (6)	miraculously (5)	badgered (5)
weave (6)	lance (16)	scorn (9)	thrust (8)	accelerator (6)	scowled (6)
scramble (7)	lumbered (20)	broadcast (10)	concealed (8)	raspy (7)	legendary (6)
structures (9)	beamed (23)	realization (11)	burly (9)	viselike (7)	intoned (8)
seeps (11)	muttering (24)		barged (9)	murmuring (9)	hovering (9)
spite (13)			strode (11)	triumph (10)	abysmal (11)
unwinding (14)			whap (11)	sprawling (11)	wincing (11)
thrilling (16)				maneuvered (12)	sarcastic (11)

Note: The words listed on the vocabulary chart were selected to enhance the theme and topic specific to the text set. Other words may be selected depending on your instructional goals. The page number the vocabulary word first appears on is listed in parentheses.

## Suggested Ways to Use This Text Set

- **Mentor:** Choose one book to use as a mentor text to teach a comprehension strategy that's applicable to each book in the set (e.g., Determining Theme; Inferring Character Traits from Actions, Dialogue, and Inner Thoughts; or Track a Character's Feelings across the Story). Use that title as a model to teach the strategy. Then have students use the other titles in the set to practice that same strategy.
- **Vocabulary:** The vocabulary words listed in the above table can be taught to students prior to reading. Select specific words to align with content knowledge development, for students to define using vocabulary strategies during reading, or for students to engage with after reading using a graphic organizer (see downloadable options at [pioneervalleybooks.com/text-set-toolkit](https://pioneervalleybooks.com/text-set-toolkit)).
- **Differentiated Activity:** Use the Lexile level or text level to assign a book to individual students or a small group of students. Then have students complete the 3-2-1 Reading Reflection (Fiction) graphic organizer (downloadable at [pioneervalleybooks.com/text-set-toolkit](https://pioneervalleybooks.com/text-set-toolkit)) and share what they learned with other students.
- **Across the Set:** Assign a text to each student or group. Have them create a three-column chart with the following headers: *Problem/Challenge*, *Character Action*, and *Solution*. As they read, have them record the problem or challenge, character's actions, and solution. Then have them compare and contrast the challenges of each character and how they responded to their challenges.

Consider using a collaborative learning structure such as a **carousel** or **jigsaw** activity to enhance engagement when students share their learning.