Adapting Grade Level Text
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“Everybody is a genius. But if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree it will live its whole life believing that it is stupid.”

-Albert Einstein
Most people - her teachers and doctors included - don’t think she’s capable of learning, and up until recently her school days consisted of listening to the same preschool-level alphabet lessons again and again and again. If only she could speak up, if only she could tell people what she thinks and knows. But she can’t. She can’t talk. She can’t walk. She can’t write.

“[A] person is so much more than the name of a diagnosis on a chart.”
— Sharon M. Draper, Out of My Mind
Provide Opportunity

Students deserve the opportunity to read grade level texts with their peers.
1. Choose Grade Appropriate Text

Pick a book that general education students are using
2. Narrow Content Focus

Select themes and characters to address in your adapted text.
Use a service like Shmoop.com to find a summary of the book you want to adapt. This step may not be necessary if your story is short or you are very familiar with it.

- You don’t need a membership
- Other resources
EMMA SUMMARY

How It All Goes Down

Emma Woodhouse has the world at her fingertips. She's young, pretty, and smart; she also happens to be the reigning queen of her village's social scene. Emma lives in Highbury, a small town about sixteen miles outside of London, with her aging father. Mr. Woodhouse loves Emma, but he's utterly unable to offer her any guidance—which is perhaps why Emma doesn't seem to have any sense of her own limitations. Life seems pretty sweet—if a bit boring—and so Emma decides to spic things up by taking on a protégé, Harriet Smith. Even though Emma's determined never to marry herself, she immediately decides to find Harriet a husband.

Determined to make Harriet into a gentlewoman, Emma sets out to refine Harriet's tastes—especially in men. She convinces Harriet to dump Robert Martin, the young farmer who likes her, and set her sights on the town's clergyman, Mr. Elton. Unfortunately, Mr. Elton turns out to be in love with Emma—or at least with Emma's money. After the Mr. Elton debacle, Emma thinks that she's learned her lessons in matchmaking. Luckily for us (if not for Harriet)
3. Reduce Text Length

Reduce text to desired length
Reduce Text Length

Use a website like textcompactor.com to reduce the length of your summary (or whole story) as needed.

- Copy and paste text
- Use the slider to compact your text
Follow these simple steps to create a summary of your text.

**Step 1**
Type or paste your text into the box.

> Emma's ex-fiancé, Mr. Knightley, returns to Highbury. His sudden decision to stay in the local community affects Emma's thoughts and feelings. The atmosphere is electric with anticipation as they rekindle their friendship. Despite her initial hesitation, Emma tentatively begins to forge a new relationship with Mr. Knightley, who has always been a part of her life.

**Step 2**
Drag the slider, or enter a number in the box, to set the percentage of text to keep in the summary.

- 52%

**Step 3**
Read your summarized text. If you would like a different summary, repeat Step 2. When you are happy with the summary, copy and paste the text into a word processor, or text to speech program, or language translation tool.

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Emma Woodhouse has the world at her fingertips. She’s young, pretty, and smart; she also happens to be the reigning queen of her village’s social scene. Emma lives in Highbury, a small town about sixteen miles outside of London, with her aging father. Mr. Woodhouse loves Emma, but he’s utterly unable to offer her any guidance – which is perhaps why Emma doesn’t seem to have any sense of her own limitations. Life seems pretty sweet – if a bit boring – and so Emma decides to spice things up by taking on a protégé, Harriet Smith. Even though Emma’s determined never to marry herself, she immediately decides to find Harriet a husband.

Determined to make Harriet into a gentlewoman, Emma sets out to refine Harriet’s tastes – especially in men. She convinces Harriet to dump Robert Martin, the young farmer who likes her, and set her sights on the town’s clergyman, Mr. Elton. Unfortunately, Mr. Elton turns out to be in love with Emma – or at least with Emma’s money. After the Mr. Elton debacle, Emma thinks that she’s learned her lessons in matchmaking. Luckily for us (if not for Harriet), she hasn’t.

When the dashing Frank Churchill comes to town, Emma tries very hard to fall in love with him herself. She can’t seem to fall head over heels for him, but she does manage to make a good deal of mischief by flirting with him in front of Jane Fairfax, a young woman who recently returned to Highbury to live with her aunts. Meanwhile, Emma decides that Frank might just be the perfect new man for Harriet.

Emma’s exploits are watched – and commented upon – by her good friend, Mr. Knightley. Although Emma frequently ignores his advice, she cherishes his good opinion. When Mr. Knightley accuses her of belittling her poor neighbors, Emma begins to reflect upon her mistakes and even starts to change her ways.

Unfortunately, Harriet confesses that she loves Mr. Knightley, not Frank. All of a sudden, Emma’s plans crumble. She realizes that she loves Mr. Knightley too. Convinced that Mr. Knightley might be interested in Harriet, despite the fact that he practically lives with the Woodhouses, Emma crushes Mr. Knightley’s attempts to propose to her. Eventually all romantic muddles are cleared: Emma marries Mr. Knightley, and Harriet marries her farmer, Robert Martin.
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4. Simplify Vocabulary
Change more difficult words to simpler words
Use a website like rewordify.com to simplify any language that is still a little too difficult

- It is really important to proofread after this step
Emma Woodhouse has the world at her fingertips. Mr. Woodhouse loves Emma, but he's completely unable to offer her any guidance - which is maybe why Emma doesn't seem to have any sense of her own limits. Life seems pretty sweet - if a bit boring - and so Emma decides to spice things up by taking on a student, Harriet Smith. Even though Emma's serious and stubborn never to marry herself, she immediately decides to find Harriet a husband.

Decided to make Harriet into a gentlewoman, Emma sets out to make better/make more pure Harriet's tastes - especially in men. Meanwhile, Emma decides that Frank might just be the perfect new man for Harriet.

Emma's (bold or daring acts) are watched - and commented upon - by her good friend, Mr. Knightley. When Mr. Knightley charges her (with a crime) of insulting her poor neighbors, Emma begins to reflect upon her mistakes and even starts to change her ways.

Unfortunately, Harriet confesses that she loves Mr. Knightley, not Frank. Convinced that Mr. Knightley might be interested in Harriet, even though he practically lives with the Woodhouses, Emma crushes Mr. Knightley's tries to propose to her. Eventually all romantic confuses are cleared: Emma marries Mr. Knightley, and Harriet marries her farmer, Robert Martin.
5. Edit & Format Text

Check for readability, vocabulary, and sentence structure.
Be sure you read your new text and check that

- It hits the main ideas and details you are going to be teaching
- Has vocab at your students’ level/that you are planning to teach
- Is readable with the new wording
Edited Summary

Emma Woodhouse has everything she could want. Her dad, Mr. Woodhouse loves Emma, but he's not able to give her any guidance - which is maybe why Emma doesn't seem to have any idea of her own limits. Life seems pretty sweet - but a little bit boring - and so Emma decides to spice things up by taking on a student, Harriet Smith. Even though Emma's sure she will never to marry, she immediately decides to find Harriet a husband.

Determined to make Harriet into a gentlewoman, Emma sets out to make Harriet's tastes better - especially in men. Emma decides that Frank might just be the perfect new man for Harriet.

Emma's behavior is watched by her good friend, Mr. Knightley. He tells her she is insulting her poor neighbors and Emma begins to think about her mistakes. She even starts to change her ways.

Unfortunately, Harriet says that she loves Mr. Knightley, not Frank. Thinking that Mr. Knightley might be interested in Harriet too, Emma stops Mr. Knightley's tries to propose to her. Eventually all romantic confusions are cleared up and Emma marries Mr. Knightley. Her friend Harriet marries a farmer. Everyone lives happily ever after.
6. Decide on Final Product Format

Print or Digital
Decide on Final Product Format

Printed
- Does not rely on internet or technology
- Can be made to be hands on
- Easy to use with another activity (open book)

Digital
- May be more engaging
- No need to print
- Supports 1 to 1 initiative
- May last longer
Print Adapted Books

- FREE TPT templates
- Google doc or sheets
- Laminate and bind or use rings
- Binder with page protectors
Digital Adapted Books

- Google Slides (can use text to speech)
- Tar Heel Reader
- Storyboard That
- Story Creator (iPad - free)
- Book Creator for iPad ($7.99)
- Boardmaker (RISE)
Create digital books with ease

The Respiratory System

- Trachea (Windpipe)
- Lungs
- Diaphragm

Storyboard that - World’s best Storyboard Creator

The dinosaur is on the bed.

Rapunzel has super long hair.
7. Assessment

How will you know student has the big picture of the story?
8. Honor Copyright

Give credit where it is due
Copyright Suggestions

- Have the original Author’s name on your new book
- On the adapted text you’ve created write a statement such as “adapted for using in classroom by Nikki Cook”
- Keep a copy of the original book with your adapted book
Other Resources

- GCISD AT Lab
- Don Johnson Start-to-Finish Library (secondary)
- Overdrive/Sora (Audiobooks)
- Tar Heel Reader
- Sherlock Center
THANKS!

Any questions?

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