SMOG BY HAND
Short Method

Directions

1. Count 10 consecutive sentences near the beginning of the text, 10 in the middle and 10 near the end. (See the note in step 2 if your sample is less than 30 sentences).

2. In the 30 selected sentences count every word of three or more syllables, even if the same word appears more than once.

   [NOTE: If your sample is less than 30 sentences, divide 30 by the numbers of sentences in your sample. Multiply that sum by total number of words with three or more syllables in your sample. If your sample is 10 sentences (30/10 = 3), multiply the number of words with three or more syllables by 3. If your sample is 4 sentences (30/4 = 7.5), multiply the number of words with three or more syllables by 7.5.]

3. Estimate the square root of the number of polysyllabic words counted (take the closest square root: if the total in step 2 is 53, the closest square root is 7 [49]).

4. Add 3 to the approximate square root to estimate the “reading grade level.”