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## Overview

Specialists at the Center for English Language Learners at the American Institutes for Research (AIR) developed background activities and glossaries to support ELLs/MLLs in understanding grade-level anchor texts used in Expeditionary Learning and Public Consulting Group lessons. The anchor texts are listed at the end of this introduction. The AIR lessons include hyperlinks to the anchor texts. Attaining Core Competencies for ELLs/MLLs (ACCELL) is an approach that was used to scaffold these lessons. ACCELL was developed by AIR staff to support ELLs/MLLs in mastering course content delivered in English. This approach is described fully in the Overview of Resources. In the following section we describe ACCELL methods used to build background

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rights movement)—but they may also have had experiences in their home countries that U.S. students have not had (e.g., first-hand knowledge of living through a civil war).

- Ensure that background materials prepared to complement an anchor text are comprehensible by defining words in context and using grade-appropriate syntax that is not unnecessarily complex.
- Provide examples and include glossaries for key terms to help students understand the supplementary background resources. Include visual images if necessary.

### **Supporting Vocabulary Development in ELLs/MLLs**

In the ACCELL approach, there are three main criteria for selecting vocabulary for instruction and/or glossing:

1. the word is important for understanding the text;
2. the word is important for acquiring the skills indexed by the New York State Next Generation English Language Arts Learning Standards (e.g., learning about figurative language);
3. the word appears frequently in texts.

AIR staff reviewed the anchor texts for words and phrases that were likely to be confusing to ELLs/MLLs and were

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GR 6 \*Lightening Thief  
GR 7 \*Long Walk to Water  
GR 7 \*Chávez's Commonwealth Address  
GR 8 \*To Kill a Mockingbird  
GR 8 \*Vietnam Wars  
GR 9-10 Franklin D. Roosevelt's Inaugural Address  
GR 9-10 Franklin D. Roosevelt's Day of Infamy Speech  
GR 9-10 The Palace Thief  
GR 9-10 Black Swan Green  
GR 9-10 Raleigh Was Right  
GR 9-10 Columbus' Journal  
GR 9-10 \*Animals in Translation

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