



### Examples of Texts and Items used in PIRLS 2021 Assessment

PIRLS 2021 consists of two components:

- (a) An assessment component which measured students' competencies in reading literacy using:
  - (i) digitised reading texts presented in an engaging and visually attractive format to motivate students to read and interact with texts; and
  - (ii) ePIRLS tasks that leverage the digital environment by incorporating interactive elements (e.g., animations, hyperlinks, pop-up boxes etc.) to better assess how well students read, interpret, and critique online information.
- (b) A questionnaire component containing survey items designed to find out more about students' learning contexts, including their attitudes towards reading.

The following are video examples of one literary text, *The Empty Pot*, and two informational texts, *The Amazing Octopus* and *Oceans*. The videos show each text in its entirety. Students are assessed on their competencies to retrieve information, make straightforward inferences, as well as interpret, integrate and evaluate information and ideas.

Video Link	Description of PIRLS 2021 Text
 <p><a href="#"><u>The Empty Pot</u></a></p>	<p><i>The Empty Pot</i> is a literary story with a message. The Emperor passes out seeds for a contest to see who will be the next Emperor. Jun is ridiculed when his seed does not grow while others brought their well-grown plants. However, Jun's empty pot indicates his honesty because the seeds given out by the Emperor were boiled.</p>
 <p><a href="#"><u>The Amazing Octopus</u></a></p>	<p><i>The Amazing Octopus</i> is an informational article about the characteristics and behaviours of octopuses. It includes animated images to show some behaviours of octopuses, like hiding under shells to avoid detection by predators.</p>



[Oceans](#)

*Oceans* is an ePIRLS task consisting of three simulated websites about 1) the benefits of oceans, 2) ocean habitats, and 3) the problem of plastic pollution. Across the colourful web pages, there are a variety of navigational features, pop-ups, links, a video, and advertisements.

Source: Extracted from *PIRLS 2021 International Results in Reading*<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Mullis, I. V. S., von Davier, M., Foy, P., Fishbein, B., Reynolds, K. A., & Wry, E. (2023). *PIRLS 2021 International Results in Reading*. Boston College, TIMSS & PIRLS International Study Center. <https://pirls2021.org/results>

