

# Dolly Parton's Gift: 100 Million Books

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To most people, Dolly Parton is a country music legend, actress, and businesswoman. She is also someone who stands up for childhood literacy. Dolly has a program called Imagination Library that ships one book every month to any child who wants to take part. The books are sent to the kids from birth until their first day of kindergarten. Many sites in the United States, Canada, and other parts of the globe work with Imagination Library. Together, they send books to almost 850,000 children. This month, Parton went to the Library of Congress for a major milestone: the delivery of 100 million books!

Parton did not think Imagination Library would get so big. It all began more than twenty years ago as a way to assist children in Parton's hometown. She did it for her dad, Robert. Robert had to get a job when

he was just a kid, so he did not get to take classes like other kids. As a result, he could not read or write.

Parton did not want other kids to go through what her dad went through. So, she gave them access to books—lots of them! Parton made sure to include her dad in the book giving, so he was able to see Imagination Library take off before he passed away. Robert was glad to be a part of the program. Most of all, it made him glad to hear children call Parton “The Book Lady.” He thought that was fantastic.

Today, Imagination Library exists in places where it has a local partner, such as a nonprofit group, to work with. Any child up to five years old can get books. The books are of great quality because they are chosen by a panel of experts.

Parton does not intend to stop giving books to kids anytime soon. She wants to send out one billion in her lifetime. Why? She thinks it is important for everyone to read, dream, and plan for a better life.

# Teacher Resources

This text passage is archived under *People*.

## Text Easability Scores

If you would like to measure the text easability scores of this passage, please follow the directions below.

1. Visit the Coh-Metrix Text Easability Assessor website at <http://tea.cohmetrix.com/>. If you do not already have a login and password, create one. It is free and easy to sign up for access to the website.
2. Once you have created an account and sign in, you will be taken to a page with an empty, white text box. Copy and paste the text from this passage into the empty, white text box. Make sure you are only copying and pasting the body of the passage. Do not include the title, date, or any of the resources present in the passage.
3. When you have pasted the passage into the text box, click on the red button beneath the text box that says "Analyze." There will be a short delay and after a few seconds, you will see a bar graph appear to the right of the screen.
4. The bar graph will give you the percentages for several text characteristics including: narrativity, syntactic simplicity, word concreteness, referential cohesion, and deep cohesion.
5. Below the bar graph, the Flesch Kincaid Grade Level is also included for your benefit.
6. Lastly, a paragraph is provided that explains the meaning of the measurements of the text characteristics for your particular passage.
7. Once you have completed measuring your passage, you can click on the "Clear" button below the text box and measure another passage, if you wish.