

Grade 3 Reading Performance Level Descriptors

Advanced: Students demonstrate superior performance on challenging subject matter. These skills are broadly demonstrated in reading processes, response to text, and acquisition of information through research. In addition to demonstrating a broad and in-depth understanding and application of all skills at the Proficient performance level, students scoring at the Advanced level typically: use a wide range of strategies to interpret and evaluate text; regularly demonstrate a thorough and comprehensive understanding of literary forms; and consistently apply many different strategies for assessing, organizing, analyzing, synthesizing, and paraphrasing information.

Proficient: Students demonstrate mastery over appropriate grade-level subject matter, and students are ready for the next grade level. Students scoring at the Proficient level typically read and comprehend grade level reading material using the following skills:

- Utilize structural analysis, in combination with context clues and introductory resources, to determine the meaning of new words and multiple meanings of words.
- Answer literal questions about the reading selection.
- Make obvious inferences, draw conclusions, organize, classify, and compare/contrast.
- Identify and summarize major elements of story structure such as plot, setting, and characters, and are able to make logical predictions based on text information.
- Analyze characters and events from a text.
- Analyze causes, motivations, sequences, and results of events.
- Distinguish between fact and opinion in various texts.
- Recognize relationships in narrative and expository text such as cause and effect or sequence.
- Recognize characteristics of literary genres.
- Determine and/or summarize the central purpose, main idea, theme, and important details.
- Compare or contrast plots, settings, and characters between reading selections.
- Identify simple figurative language and word sounds in a passage.
- Alphabetize to the third letter.
- Use guide words to locate information.
- Use functional print information resources such as dictionaries, charts, diagrams, etc.

Limited Knowledge: Students demonstrate partial mastery of the essential knowledge and skills appropriate to their grade level. Students scoring at the Limited Knowledge level are inconsistent in demonstrating the Proficient level competencies and typically demonstrate reading skills within more explicit and concrete contexts.

Unsatisfactory: Students have not performed at least at the Limited Knowledge level. Students scoring at the Unsatisfactory level should be given comprehensive reading instruction.