

Grade 4 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 other word-meaning resources to determine the meaning of new words and interpret the meaning of multiple-meaning words.
- Apply knowledge of synonyms, antonyms, homonyms/homophones, and idioms.
- Make grade-level inferences, draw conclusions, and make generalizations.
- Compare and contrast information from texts on similar topics.
- Distinguish between fact, opinion, and supported inferences in a variety of texts.
- Interpret and analyze relationships in narrative and expository text to include cause and effect, sequence, and compare/contrast.
- Identify and analyze the characteristics of a variety of genres.
- Describe the major elements of story structure such as plot, setting, and characters, and apply understanding of them to make logical predictions.
- Determine the central purpose, theme or main idea, and important details.
- Determine the author's purpose and the point of view presented.
- Interpret figurative language in poetry and descriptive passages.
- Interpret poetry and recognize poetic styles.
- 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.