

## Grade 8 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 a variety of strategies to determine literal and non-literal word meanings.
- Analyze idioms and comparisons to infer literal and figurative meanings.
- Determine the purpose for reading a passage.
- Determine author's purpose and distinguish between various points of view, accuracy of text, and fact/opinion.
- Connect, compare, and contrast ideas, themes, and issues across texts.
- Infer, predict, and generalize ideas.
- Determine main idea and themes (stated or implied) and recognize relevance of details.
- Analyze character traits, conflicts, and points of view.
- Analyze structural elements of plot, subplot, and climax.
- Analyze characteristics of genres and subgenres.
- Interpret figurative language and elements of poetry.
- Interpret literary devices.
- Use appropriate strategies to organize and summarize information.
- Identify instances of persuasion, propaganda, and faulty reasoning in text.

**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.