

Grade 8 Reading ISAT Proficiency Level Descriptors

Advanced

In the area of reading, eighth grade students typically performing at the Advanced level demonstrate a **thorough understanding** of grade-level skills. These students

- consistently apply knowledge of root words, prefixes, and suffixes to determine the meaning of complex words in context.
- consistently analyze relationships among words.
- consistently apply central ideas and critical details to summarize information from expository text.
- consistently interpret aspects that influence character development.
- consistently analyze the importance of the setting to the mood and meaning of the story.
- consistently evaluate the structural elements of the plot and how conflicts are addressed and resolved.
- consistently analyze themes across various genres.

Proficient

In the area of reading, eighth grade students typically performing at the Proficient level demonstrate a **satisfactory understanding** of grade-level skills. These students

- interpret graphic features of text to clarify and extend meaning.
- use structural analysis and apply root words, prefixes, and suffixes, including those derived from Greek and Latin, to decode complex words.
- apply origins of root words, prefixes, and suffixes to determine the meaning of unknown words.
- explain relationships among words, including connotation/denotation, antonyms, synonyms, and words with multiple meanings.
- determine the relationships among facts, ideas, and events used in paired texts to support a central purpose.
- distinguish cause and effect relationships in text to gain meaning.
- make inferences, draw conclusions, and form opinions based on information gathered from text, and cite evidence to support.
- apply central ideas, both literal and inferential, and critical details to summarize information from expository text.
- identify the main purpose and anticipate outcomes of procedures specified in informational text.
- interpret how situations, actions, and other characters influence a character's personality and development.
- analyze the importance of the setting to the mood and meaning of the story.
- evaluate the structural elements of the plot and how conflicts are addressed and resolved.
- explain the author's point of view and interpret how it influences the story.
- analyze the themes across various genres.
- identify literary devices to increase comprehension.

Basic

In the area of reading, eighth grade students typically performing at the Basic level demonstrate a **limited understanding** of grade-level skills. These students

- inconsistently use graphic features of text to clarify and extend meaning.
- apply root words, prefixes, and suffixes to decode and determine meaning of some unknown words.
- explain some relationships among words.
- determine some relationships in paired texts to support a central purpose.
- distinguish some cause and effect relationships in text to gain meaning.
- make inferences, draw conclusions, form opinions, and cite some evidence from the text to support.
- apply central literal ideas and limited details to identify summarized text.
- organize and anticipate some outcomes of procedures specified in informational text.
- identify outside influences of the character's personality, the setting, and elements of the plot.
- inconsistently identify first-person, third-person limited, and third-person omniscient point of view.