

Grade 9 Reading ISAT Proficiency Level Descriptors

Advanced

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

- consistently use context analysis and knowledge of Greek and Latin roots, prefixes, and suffixes to analyze the origin and meaning of unfamiliar words.
- consistently synthesize the content from several sources on a single issue.
- consistently identify the thesis, evidence, and argument in informational texts.
- consistently define the purpose and audience of a variety of communication formats.
- consistently evaluate the author's argument or defense of a claim by examining the relevance and comprehensiveness of evidence.
- consistently evaluate the importance of the setting to the mood and meaning of the text.
- consistently explain the author's point of view and interpret how it influences the text.

Proficient

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

- analyze the structure and format of various informational documents.
- use knowledge of Greek and Latin roots, prefixes, and suffixes to analyze the origin and meaning of unknown words.
- use context analysis to determine the meanings of unfamiliar words.
- synthesize the content from several sources on a single issue; paraphrase ideas to demonstrate comprehension.
- identify the thesis, evidence, and argument in informational texts.
- evaluate an author's argument or defense of a claim by examining the relevance and comprehensiveness of evidence.
- define the purpose and audience of a variety of communication formats.
- determine characters' traits by what the characters say about themselves in narration, dialogue, and soliloquy.
- evaluate the importance of the setting to the mood and meaning of the text.
- explain the author's point of view and interpret how it influences the text.
- compare and contrast themes across works of prose, poetry, and drama.
- analyze significant literary devices, including irony and symbolism.

Basic

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

- inconsistently identify the structure and format of various informational documents.
- may use limited context analysis, and knowledge of Greek and Latin roots, prefixes, and suffixes to determine the origin and meaning of unknown words.
- paraphrase ideas from a single source to demonstrate comprehension.
- may identify thesis, with limited evidence in informational texts.
- inconsistently identify purpose and/or audience of a variety of texts.
- identify some aspects of an author's argument.
- may determine characters' traits by what the characters say about themselves in narration, dialogue, and soliloquy.
- may compare and/or contrast simple themes across works of prose, poetry, and drama.
- may identify some literary devices.