

Pennsylvania PASA Reading Performance Level Descriptors (PLD)

Level A

Grade 3 Advanced

Third grade students performing at the **Advanced** level are able to perform almost all of the knowledge and skills that define Proficient and Novice performance. In addition, based on one sentence of informational and/or narrative text (written below grade level readability) read aloud to them with pictures as choices, they are generally able to:

- identify one or more key ideas, and
- identify the literal and non-literal meaning of words—including those with multiple meanings—and phrases using context.

Grade 3 Proficient

Third grade students performing at the **Proficient** level are able to perform almost all of the knowledge and skills that define Novice performance. In addition, based on one sentence of informational and/or narrative text (written below grade level readability) read aloud to them with pictures as choices, they are generally able to:

- identify one key fact,
- identify the main topic,
- identify one action of a stated character,
- identify the meaning of words—including those with multiple meanings—using context,
- and answer literal questions, including those with pictures and captions.

Grade 3 Novice

Third grade students performing at the **Novice** level are generally able to do the following based on one sentence of informational and/or narrative text (written below grade level readability) read aloud to them with pictures as choices:

- identify one main event,
- identify the meaning of words using prefixes, suffixes, and roots, and
- answer basic literal questions.

Grade 3 Emerging

Third grade students performing at the **Emerging** level demonstrate limited understanding of the knowledge and skills assessed on the Level A PASA. Based on one sentence of informational and/or narrative text (written below grade level readability) read aloud to them with pictures as choices, they may be able to:

- identify the meaning of words and phrases, and
- answer literal questions.

Grade 4 Advanced

Fourth grade students performing at the **Advanced** level are able to perform almost all of the knowledge and skills that define Proficient and Novice performance. In addition, based on one sentence of informational and/or narrative text (written below grade level readability) read aloud to them with pictures as choices, they are generally able to:

- identify one or more details to answer questions about events, procedures, ideas, steps, or concepts, and
- answer inferential questions.

Grade 4 Proficient

Fourth grade students performing at the **Proficient** level are able to perform almost all of the knowledge and skills that define Novice performance. In addition, based on one sentence of informational and/or narrative text (written below grade level readability) read aloud to them with pictures as choices:

- identify one piece of information to support a point,
- identify one or more details to answer questions about setting, and
- answer literal questions.

Grade 4 Novice

Fourth grade students performing at the **Novice** level are generally able to do the following based on one sentence of informational and/or narrative text (written below grade level readability) read aloud to them with pictures as choices:

- identify the main idea,
- identify one detail—including one piece of information that supports a point,
- identify the meaning of words—including those with multiple meanings—and phrases using context and/or prefixes, suffixes, and roots.

Grade 4 Emerging

Fourth grade students performing at the **Emerging** level demonstrate limited understanding of the knowledge and skills assessed on the Level A PASA. Based on one sentence of informational and/or narrative text (written below grade level readability) read aloud to them with pictures as choices, they may be able to:

- identify one detail or event,
- identify the meaning of words and phrases, and
- answer basic literal questions.

Grade 5 Advanced

Fifth grade students performing at the **Advanced** level are able to perform almost all of the knowledge and skills that define Proficient and Novice performance. In addition, based on 1-2 sentences of informational and/or narrative text (written below grade level readability) read aloud to them with pictures as choices, they are generally able to:

- identify one or more details that support an inference, and
- answer literal and inferential questions.

Grade 5 Proficient

Fifth grade students performing at the **Proficient** level are able to perform almost all of the knowledge and skills that define Novice performance. In addition, based on 1-2 sentences of informational and/or narrative text (written below grade level readability) read aloud to them with pictures as choices, they are generally able to:

- identify the author's purpose (e.g., to persuade, inform, or entertain),
- identify evidence that supports the author's point of view,
- identify the main idea or key details, and
- answer inferential questions.

Grade 5 Novice

Fifth grade students performing at the **Novice** level are generally able to do the following based on 1-2 sentences of informational and/or narrative text (written below grade level readability) read aloud to them with pictures as choices:

- identify the meaning of figurative language through simple similes or metaphors,
- identify the meaning of words and phrases—including those with multiple meanings—using context and/or prefixes, suffixes, and roots,
- identify one or more key details, and
- answer literal questions.

Grade 5 Emerging

Fifth grade students performing at the **Emerging** level demonstrate limited understanding of the knowledge and skills assessed on the Level A PASA. Based on 1-2 sentences of informational and/or narrative text (written below grade level readability) read aloud to them with pictures as choices, they may be able to:

- identify a key detail,
- identify the meaning of words or phrases using context, and
- answer basic literal questions.

Grade 6 Advanced

Sixth grade students performing at the **Advanced** level are able to perform almost all of the knowledge and skills that define Proficient and Novice performance. In addition, based on 1-2 sentences of informational and/or narrative text (written at the early-third grade readability level) read aloud to them with pictures as choices, they are generally able to:

- distinguish whether evidence is fact or opinion, and
- identify the meaning of multiple-meaning words and figurative language—including idioms—using context and/or prefixes, suffixes, and roots.

Grade 6 Proficient

Sixth grade students performing at the **Proficient** level are able to perform almost all of the knowledge and skills that define Novice performance. In addition, based on 1-2 sentences of informational and/or narrative text (written at the early-third grade readability level) read aloud to them with pictures as choices, they are generally able to:

- identify the main and/or central idea,
- identify a claim or an argument made by the author, and
- answer literal and inferential questions.

Grade 6 Novice

Sixth grade students performing at the **Novice** level are generally able to do the following based on 1-2 sentences of informational and/or narrative text (written at the early-third grade readability level) read aloud to them with pictures as choices:

- identify a theme,
- identify key details,
- identify the meaning of words—including those with multiple meanings—and phrases using context and/or prefixes, suffixes, and roots, and
- answer inferential questions.

Grade 6 Emerging

Sixth grade students performing at the **Emerging** level demonstrate limited understanding of the knowledge and skills assessed on the Level A PASA. Based on 1-2 sentences of informational and/or narrative text (written at the early-third grade readability level) read aloud to them with pictures as choices, they may be able to:

- identify themes or key details,
- identify the meaning of words and phrases using context, and
- answer literal questions.

Grade 7 Advanced

Seventh grade students performing at the **Advanced** level are able to perform almost all of the knowledge and skills that define Proficient and Novice performance. In addition, based on 1-2 sentences of informational and/or narrative text (written at the mid-third grade readability level) read aloud to them with pictures as choices, they are generally able to:

- distinguish whether evidence is fact or opinion, and
- identify the meaning of multiple-meaning words and figurative language—including idioms and personification—using context.

Grade 7 Proficient

Seventh grade students performing at the **Proficient** level are able to perform almost all of the knowledge and skills that define Novice performance. In addition, based on 1-2 sentences of informational and/or narrative text (written at the mid-third grade readability level) read aloud to them with pictures as choices, they are generally able to:

- identify the main and/or central idea,
- identify evidence that supports a claim/argument made by the author,
- identify two key details that summarize a text, and

Grade 7 Novice

Seventh grade students performing at the **Novice** level are generally able to do the following based on 1-2 sentences of informational and/or narrative text (written at the mid-third grade readability level) read aloud to them with pictures as choices:

- identify a theme,
- identify a claim or an argument made by the author,
- identify a key detail,
- identify the meaning of words and phrases—including those with multiple meanings—using context and/or prefixes, suffixes, and roots, and
- answer literal and inferential questions.

Grade 7 Emerging

Seventh grade students performing at the **Emerging** level demonstrate limited understanding of the knowledge and skills assessed on the Level A PASA. Based on 1-2 sentences of informational and/or narrative text (written at the mid-third grade readability level) read aloud to them with pictures as choices, they may be able to:

- identify themes or details,
- identify the meaning of simple words and phrases using context, and
- answer literal or inferential questions.

Grade 8 Advanced

Eighth grade students performing at the **Advanced** level are able to perform almost all of the knowledge and skills that define Proficient and Novice performance. In addition, based on 1-2 sentences of informational and/or narrative text (written at the mid-fourth grade readability level) read aloud to them with pictures as choices, they are generally able to:

- distinguish whether evidence is fact or opinion, and
- identify the meaning of multiple-meaning words and figurative language—including adages—using context.

Grade 8 Proficient

Eighth grade students performing at the **Proficient** level are able to perform almost all of the knowledge and skills that define Novice performance. In addition, based on 1-2 sentences of informational and/or narrative text (written at the mid-fourth grade readability level) read aloud to them with pictures as choices, they are generally able to:

- identify evidence that supports a claim/argument made by the author,
- identify up to three key details that summarize text, and
- identify the meaning of multiple-meaning words and figurative language—including idioms and personification—using context.

Grade 8 Novice

Eighth grade students performing at the **Novice** level are generally able to do the following based on 1-2 sentences of informational and/or narrative text (written at the mid-fourth grade readability level) read aloud to them with pictures as choices:

- identify the main and/or central idea,
- identify a claim or an argument made by the author,
- identify key details,
- identify the meaning of words and phrases—including those with multiple meanings—using context and/or prefixes, suffixes, and roots, and
- answer literal and inferential questions.

Grade 8 Emerging

Eighth grade students performing at the **Emerging** level demonstrate limited understanding of the knowledge and skills assessed on the Level A PASA. Based on 1-2 sentences of informational and/or narrative text (written at the mid-fourth grade readability level) read aloud to them with pictures as choices, they may be able to:

- identify themes or details,
- identify the meaning of simple words and phrases using context, and
- answer literal or inferential questions.

Grade 11 Advanced

Eleventh grade students performing at the **Advanced** level are able to perform almost all of the knowledge and skills that define Proficient and Novice performance. In addition, based on 1-2 sentences of informational and/or narrative text (written at the mid-fourth grade readability level) read aloud to them with pictures as choices, they are generally able to:

- distinguish whether evidence is fact or opinion, and
- identify the meaning of multiple-meaning words and figurative language—including adages—using context.

Grade 11 Proficient

Eleventh grade students performing at the **Proficient** level are able to perform almost all of the knowledge and skills that define Novice performance. In addition, based on 1-2 sentences of informational and/or narrative text (written at the mid-fourth grade readability level) read aloud to them with pictures as choices, they are generally able to:

- identify a central theme or claim/argument made by the author,
- identify evidence that supports a claim/argument made by the author, and
- identify up to three key details that summarize text.

Grade 11 Novice

Eleventh grade students performing at the **Novice** level are generally able to do the following based on 1-2 sentences of informational and/or narrative text (written at the mid-fourth grade readability level) read aloud to them with pictures as choices:

- identify the main and/or central idea,
- identify key details that summarize a text,
- identify the meaning of words, phrases and figurative language—including those with multiple meanings—using context and/or prefixes, suffixes, and roots, and
- answer literal and inferential questions.

Grade 11 Emerging

Eleventh grade students performing at the **Emerging** level demonstrate limited understanding of the knowledge and skills assessed on the Level A PASA. Based on 1-2 sentences of informational and/or narrative text (written at the mid-fourth grade readability level) read aloud to them with pictures as choices, they may be able to:

- identify themes or summarizing details,
- identify the meaning of simple and multiple-meaning words, and phrases, and
- answer literal or inferential questions.

Pennsylvania PASA Reading Performance Level Descriptors (PLD)

Level B

Grade 3 Advanced

Third grade students performing at the **Advanced** level are able to perform almost all of the knowledge and skills that define Proficient and Novice performance. In addition, based on a paragraph of informational and/or narrative text (written below grade level readability) read aloud to them with picture support, they are generally able to:

- order and retell three or more details and events,
- identify two or more key ideas, and
- identify the literal and non-literal meaning of more words and phrases—including those with multiple meanings—using context.

Grade 3 Proficient

Third grade students performing at the **Proficient** level are able to perform almost all of the knowledge and skills that define Novice performance. In addition, based on a paragraph of informational and/or narrative text (written below grade level readability) read aloud to them with picture support, they are generally able to:

- order and retell events—including the first and last event,
- identify one key idea,
- identify one action of a stated character,
- identify the literal and non-literal meaning of words—including those with multiple meanings—using context, and
- answer literal and non-literal questions.

Grade 3 Novice

Third grade students performing at the **Novice** level are generally able to do the following based on a paragraph of informational and/or narrative text (written below grade level readability) read aloud to them with picture support:

- identify the central message or main idea,
- identify the meaning of simple words using prefixes, suffixes, and roots,
- identify the meaning of simple phrases, and
- answer basic literal and non-literal questions.

Grade 3 Emerging

Third grade students performing at the **Emerging** level demonstrate limited understanding of the knowledge and skills assessed on the Level B PASA. Based on a paragraph of informational and/or narrative text (written below grade level readability) read aloud to them with picture support, they may be able to:

- identify one key idea,
- the meaning of simple words and phrases, and
- answer basic literal questions.

Grade 4 Advanced

Fourth grade students performing at the **Advanced** level are able to perform almost all of the knowledge and skills that define Proficient and Novice performance. In addition, based on a paragraph of informational and/or narrative text (written below grade level readability) read aloud to them with picture support, they are generally able to:

- identify at least one piece of information to support a point, and
- identify one or more details to answer questions about events, procedures, ideas, steps, or concepts.

Grade 4 Proficient

Fourth grade students performing at the **Proficient** level are able to perform almost all of the knowledge and skills that define Novice performance. In addition, based on a paragraph of informational and/or narrative text (written below grade level readability) read aloud to them with picture support, they are generally able to:

- identify at least one piece of information to support a point,
- identify one or more details to answer questions about setting,
- identify the main idea or one or more key details—including one that supports a point,
- order and retell basic events—including the first and last event,
- identify the literal and non-literal meaning of words and phrases—including those with multiple meanings—using context and/or prefixes, suffixes, and roots, and
- answer literal and inferential questions.

Grade 4 Novice

Fourth grade students performing at the **Novice** level are generally able to do the following based on a paragraph of informational and/or narrative text (written below grade level readability) read aloud to them with picture support:

- identify the central message or main idea,
- identify the first and last event in a sequence,
- identify the meaning of simple words and phrases, and
- answer basic literal and inferential questions.

Grade 4 Emerging

Fourth grade students performing at the **Emerging** level demonstrate limited understanding of the knowledge and skills assessed on the Level B PASA. Based on a paragraph of informational and/or narrative text (written below grade level readability) read aloud to them with picture support, they may be able to:

- identify events
- identify one key idea or detail,
- the meaning of simple words and phrases, and
- answer basic literal or inferential questions.

Grade 5 Advanced

Fifth grade students performing at the **Advanced** level are able to perform almost all of the knowledge and skills that define Proficient and Novice performance. In addition, based on a paragraph of informational and/or narrative text (written below grade level readability) read aloud to them with picture support, they are generally able to:

- identify the author's purpose (e.g., to persuade, inform, or entertain), and
- identify one or more details that support an inference.

Grade 5 Proficient

Fifth grade students performing at the **Proficient** level are able to perform almost all of the knowledge and skills that define Novice performance. In addition, based on a paragraph of informational and/or narrative text (written below grade level readability) read aloud to them with picture support, they are generally able to:

- identify evidence that supports the author's point of view,
- identify the main idea and key details, and
- identify the meaning of figurative language through simple similes or metaphors.

Grade 5 Novice

Fifth grade students performing at the **Novice** level are generally able to do the following based on a paragraph of informational and/or narrative text (written below grade level readability) read aloud to them with picture support:

- identify one or more key details,
- identify a theme and/or main idea,
- identify the meaning of words and phrases—including those with multiple meanings—using context and/or prefixes, suffixes, and roots, and
- answer literal and inferential questions.

Grade 5 Emerging

Fifth grade students performing at the **Emerging** level demonstrate limited understanding of the knowledge and skills assessed on the Level B PASA. Based on a paragraph of informational and/or narrative text (written below grade level readability) read aloud to them with picture support, they may be able to:

- identify one key detail,
- identify the meaning of simple words and phrases using context, and
- answer basic literal or inferential questions.

Grade 6 Advanced

Sixth grade students performing at the **Advanced** level are able to perform almost all of the knowledge and skills that define Proficient and Novice performance. In addition, based on a paragraph of informational and/or narrative text (written at the early-third grade readability level) read aloud to them with picture support, they are generally able to:

- distinguish whether evidence is fact or opinion, and
- identify the meaning of multiple-meaning words and figurative language—including idioms—using context and/or prefixes, suffixes, and roots.

Grade 6 Proficient

Sixth grade students performing at the **Proficient** level are able to perform almost all of the knowledge and skills that define Novice performance. In addition, based on a paragraph of informational and/or narrative text (written at the early-third grade readability level) read aloud to them with picture support, they are generally able to:

- identify a claim or an argument made by the author,
- identify the main theme/main idea, and key details, and
- identify the meaning of figurative language through simple similes or metaphors.

Grade 6 Novice

Sixth grade students performing at the **Novice** level are generally able to do the following based on a paragraph of informational and/or narrative text (written at the early-third grade readability level) read aloud to them with picture support:

- identify a theme or main idea and key details,
- identify the meaning of words—including those with multiple meanings—and phrases using context and/or prefixes, suffixes, and roots, and
- answer literal and inferential questions.

Grade 6 Emerging

Sixth grade students performing at the **Emerging** level demonstrate limited understanding of the knowledge and skills assessed on the Level B PASA. Based on a paragraph of informational and/or narrative text (written at the early-third grade readability level) read aloud to them with picture support, they may be able to:

- identify key details,
- identify the meaning of simple words and phrases using context, and
- answer basic literal or inferential questions.

Grade 7 Advanced

Seventh grade students performing at the **Advanced** level are able to perform almost all of the knowledge and skills that define Proficient and Novice performance. In addition, based on a short paragraph (up to six sentences, written at the mid-third grade readability level) of narrative or informational text read aloud to them with picture support, they are generally able to:

- distinguish whether evidence is fact or opinion, and
- identify the meaning of multiple-meaning words and figurative language—including personification—using context.

Grade 7 Proficient

Seventh grade students performing at the **Proficient** level are able to perform almost all of the knowledge and skills that define Novice performance. In addition, based on a short paragraph (up to six sentences, written at the mid-third grade readability level) of narrative or informational text read aloud to them with picture support, they are generally able to:

- identify the meaning of multiple-meaning words and figurative language—including idioms—using context,
- identify up to two central themes or main ideas, and
- identify evidence that supports a claim/argument made by the author.

Grade 7 Novice

Seventh grade students performing at the **Novice** level are generally able to do the following based on a short paragraph (up to six sentences, written at the mid-third grade readability level) of informational and/or narrative text read aloud to them with picture support:

- identify a theme or a claim/argument made by the author,
- identify key details that summarize a text,
- identify the meaning of words and phrases—including those with multiple meanings—using context and/or prefixes, suffixes, and roots, and
- answer literal and inferential questions.

Grade 7 Emerging

Seventh grade students performing at the **Emerging** level demonstrate limited understanding of the knowledge and skills assessed on the Level B PASA. Based on a paragraph of informational and/or narrative text (up to six sentences, written at the mid-third grade readability level) read aloud to them with picture support, they may be able to:

- identify a theme and key details,
- identify the meaning of simple words and phrases using context, and
- answer basic literal or inferential questions.

Grade 8 Advanced

Eighth grade students performing at the **Advanced** level are able to perform almost all of the knowledge and skills that define Proficient and Novice performance. In addition, based on a paragraph (up to seven sentences written at the mid-fourth grade readability level) of narrative or informational text read aloud to them with picture support, they are generally able to:

- identify two or more central themes or key/main ideas, and
- identify the meaning of multiple-meaning words and figurative language—including adages—using context.

Grade 8 Proficient

Eighth grade students performing at the **Proficient** level are able to perform almost all of the knowledge and skills that define Novice performance. In addition, based on a paragraph (up to seven sentences written at the mid-fourth grade readability level) of narrative or informational text read aloud to them with picture support, they are generally able to:

- distinguish whether evidence is fact or opinion,
- identify evidence that supports a claim/argument made by the author, and
- identify the meaning of multiple-meaning words and figurative language—including idioms and personification—using context.

Grade 8 Novice

Eighth grade students performing at the **Novice** level are generally able to do the following based on a paragraph (up to seven sentences written at the mid-fourth grade readability level) of informational and/or narrative text read aloud to them with picture support:

- identify a central theme or claim/argument made by the author,
- identify key details that summarize a text,
- identify the meaning of words and phrases—including those with multiple meanings—using context and/or prefixes, suffixes, and roots, and
- answer literal and inferential questions.

Grade 8 Emerging

Eighth grade students performing at the **Emerging** level demonstrate limited understanding of the knowledge and skills assessed on the Level B PASA. Based on a paragraph of informational and/or narrative text (up to seven sentences written at the mid-fourth grade readability level) read aloud to them with picture support, they may be able to:

- identify themes or summarizing details,
- identify the meaning of words—including those with multiple meanings—using context, and
- answer basic literal or inferential questions.

Grade 11 Advanced

Eleventh grade students performing at the **Advanced** level are able to perform almost all of the knowledge and skills that define Proficient and Novice performance. In addition, based on a paragraph (up to seven sentences, written at the mid-fourth or above grade readability level) of narrative or informational text read aloud to them with picture support, they are generally able to:

- identify two or more central themes or key/main ideas, and
- identify the meaning of multiple-meaning words and figurative language—including adages—using context.

Grade 11 Proficient

Eleventh grade students performing at the **Proficient** level are able to perform almost all of the knowledge and skills that define Novice performance. In addition, based on a paragraph (up to seven sentences, written at the mid-fourth or above grade readability level) of narrative or informational text read aloud to them with picture support, they are generally able to:

- distinguish whether evidence is fact or opinion, =
- identify evidence that supports a claim/argument made by the author, and
- identify the meaning of multiple-meaning words, phrases, and figurative language—including idioms and personification—using context.

Grade 11 Novice

Eleventh grade students performing at the **Novice** level are generally able to do the following based on a paragraph (up to seven sentences, written at the mid-fourth or above grade readability level) of informational and/or narrative text read aloud to them with picture support:

- identify a central theme or claim/argument made by the author,
- identify key details that summarize a text,
- identify the meaning of words and phrases—including those with multiple meanings—using context and/or prefixes, suffixes, and roots, and
- answer literal and inferential questions.

Grade 11 Emerging

Eleventh grade students performing at the **Emerging** level demonstrate limited understanding of the knowledge and skills assessed on the Level B PASA. Based on a paragraph of informational and/or narrative text (up to seven sentences, written at the mid-fourth or above grade readability level) read aloud to them with picture support, they may be able to:

- identify themes or summarizing details,
- identify the meaning of words and phrases—including those with multiple meanings—using context, and
- answer basic literal or inferential questions.

Pennsylvania PASA Reading Performance Level Descriptors (PLD)

Level C

Grade 3 Advanced

Third grade students performing at the **Advanced** level are able to perform almost all of the knowledge and skills that define Proficient and Novice performance. In addition, based on a paragraph of informational and/or narrative text (written below grade level readability) read aloud to them, they are generally able to:

- order and retell three or more details and events,
- identify two or more key ideas,
- identify the meaning of multiple-meaning words using context, and
- answer non-literal questions.

Grade 3 Proficient

Third grade students performing at the **Proficient** level are able to perform almost all of the knowledge and skills that define Novice performance. In addition, based on a paragraph of informational and/or narrative text (written below grade level readability) read aloud to them, they are generally able to:

- order and retell two events,
- identify one or two key ideas,
- identify one action of a stated character,
- identify the literal and non-literal meaning of words and phrases using context, and
- answer literal questions.

Grade 3 Novice

Third grade students performing at the **Novice** level are generally able to do the following based on a paragraph of informational and/or narrative text (written below grade level readability) read aloud to them:

- identify the central message or main idea,
- identify the meaning of simple words using prefixes, suffixes, and roots,
- identify the literal and non-literal meaning of simple phrases, and
- answer basic literal questions.

Grade 3 Emerging

Third grade students performing at the **Emerging** level demonstrate limited understanding of the knowledge and skills assessed on the Level C PASA. Based on a paragraph of informational and/or narrative text (written below grade level readability) read aloud to them, they may be able to:

- identify the meaning of simple words and phrases, and
- answer basic literal questions.

Grade 4 Advanced

Fourth grade students performing at the **Advanced** level are able to perform almost all of the knowledge and skills that define Proficient and Novice performance. In addition, based on a paragraph of informational and/or narrative text (written below grade level readability) read aloud to them, they are generally able to:

- identify at least one piece of information to support a point,
- identify the meaning of words—including those with multiple meanings—using context and/or prefixes, suffixes, and roots, and
- answer literal and inferential questions.

Grade 4 Proficient

Fourth grade students performing at the **Proficient** level are able to perform almost all of the knowledge and skills that define Novice performance. In addition, based on a paragraph of informational and/or narrative text (written below grade level readability) read aloud to them, they are generally able to:

- order and retell three or more details or events,
- identify one or more details to answer questions about setting, events, procedures, ideas, steps, or concepts,
- identify the main idea and one or more key details,
- identify the meaning of words and phrases—including those with multiple meanings—using context and/or prefixes, suffixes, and roots, and
- answer literal questions.

Grade 4 Novice

Fourth grade students performing at the **Novice** level are generally able to do the following based on a paragraph of informational and/or narrative text (written below grade level readability) read aloud to them:

- order and retell two details or events,
- identify one key detail,
- identify the meaning of simple words and phrases, and
- answer basic literal questions.

Grade 4 Emerging

Fourth grade students performing at the **Emerging** level demonstrate limited understanding of the knowledge and skills assessed on the Level C PASA. Based on a paragraph of informational and/or narrative text (written below grade level readability) read aloud to them, they may be able to:

- identify key details,
- identify the meaning of simple words and phrases, and
- answer basic literal questions.

Grade 5 Advanced

Fifth grade students performing at the **Advanced** level are able to perform almost all of the knowledge and skills that define Proficient and Novice performance. In addition, based on a paragraph of informational and/or narrative text (written below grade level readability) read aloud to them, they are generally able to:

- identify the author's purpose (e.g., to persuade, inform, or entertain), and
- identify one or more details that support an inference.

Grade 5 Proficient

Fifth grade students performing at the **Proficient** level are able to perform almost all of the knowledge and skills that define Novice performance. In addition, based on a paragraph of informational and/or narrative text (written below grade level readability) read aloud to them, they are generally able to:

- identify evidence that supports the author's point of view,
- identify the main idea and key details,
- understand the meaning of figurative language through simple similes or metaphors,
- answer questions using headings, and
- answer literal and inferential questions.

Grade 5 Novice

Fifth grade students performing at the **Novice** level are generally able to do the following based on a paragraph of informational and/or narrative text (written below grade level readability) read aloud to them:

- identify one or more key detail,
- identify the meaning of words and phrases—including those with multiple meanings—using context and/or prefixes, suffixes, and roots, and
- answer basic literal and inferential questions.

Grade 5 Emerging

Fifth grade students performing at the **Emerging** level demonstrate limited understanding of the knowledge and skills assessed on the Level C PASA. Based on a paragraph of informational and/or narrative text (written below grade level readability) read aloud to them, they may be able to:

- identify one or more key detail,
- identify the meaning of simple words and phrases using context, and
- answer basic literal or inferential questions.

Grade 6 Advanced

Sixth grade students performing at the **Advanced** level are able to perform almost all of the knowledge and skills that define Proficient and Novice performance. In addition, based on a paragraph of informational and/or narrative text (written at the early-third grade readability level) read aloud to them, they are generally able to:

- identify a claim or an argument made by the author,
- distinguish whether evidence is fact or opinion, and
- identify the meaning of multiple-meaning words and figurative language—including idioms—using context.

Grade 6 Proficient

Sixth grade students performing at the **Proficient** level are able to perform almost all of the knowledge and skills that define Novice performance. In addition, based on a paragraph of informational and/or narrative text (written at the early-third grade readability level) read aloud to them, they are generally able to:

- identify the main theme,
- identify the main idea and key details, and
- answer literal and inferential questions.

Grade 6 Novice

Sixth grade students performing at the **Novice** level are generally able to do the following based on a paragraph of informational and/or narrative text (written at the early-third grade readability level) read aloud to them:

- understand the meaning of figurative language through simple similes or metaphors,
- identify the meaning of words—including those with multiple meanings—and phrases using context and/or prefixes, suffixes, and roots, and
- identify a theme and/or main idea,
- identify key details,
- answer basic literal and inferential questions.

Grade 6 Emerging

Sixth grade students performing at the **Emerging** level demonstrate limited understanding of the knowledge and skills assessed on the Level C PASA. Based on a paragraph of informational and/or narrative text (written at the early-third grade readability level) read aloud to them, they may be able to:

- identify themes or details,
- identify the meaning of simple words and phrases using context and/or prefixes, suffixes, and roots, and
- answer basic literal or inferential questions.

Grade 7 Advanced

Seventh grade students performing at the **Advanced** level are able to perform almost all of the knowledge and skills that define Proficient and Novice performance. In addition, based on a short paragraph (up to six sentences, written at the mid-third grade readability level) of narrative or informational text that they read independently, they are generally able to:

- distinguish whether evidence is fact or opinion,
- identify the meaning of multiple-meaning words and figurative language—including personification—using context.

Grade 7 Proficient

Seventh grade students performing at the **Proficient** level are able to perform almost all of the knowledge and skills that define Novice performance. In addition, based on a short paragraph (up to six sentences, written at the mid-third grade readability level) of narrative or informational text that they read independently, they are generally able to:

- identify up to two central themes or main ideas,
- identify key details that summarize a text,
- identify the meaning of multiple-meaning words and figurative language—including idioms—using context, and
- answer literal and inferential questions.

Grade 7 Novice

Seventh grade students performing at the **Novice** level are generally able to do the following based on a short paragraph (up to six sentences, written at the mid-third grade readability level) of informational and/or narrative text they read independently:

- identify a theme or a claim/argument made by the author,
- identify evidence that supports a claim/argument made by the author,
- identify key details,
- identify the meaning of words and phrases—including those with multiple meanings—using context and/or prefixes, suffixes, and roots, and
- answer basic literal and inferential questions.

Grade 7 Emerging

Seventh grade students performing at the **Emerging** level demonstrate limited understanding of the knowledge and skills assessed on the Level C PASA. Based on a paragraph of informational and/or narrative text (up to six sentences, written at the mid-third grade readability level), they may be able to:

- independently read text,
- identify themes or key details,
- identify the meaning of simple words and phrases using context, and
- answer basic literal or inferential questions.

Grade 8 Advanced

Eighth grade students performing at the **Advanced** level are able to perform almost all of the knowledge and skills that define Proficient and Novice performance. In addition, based on a paragraph (up to seven sentences written at the mid-fourth grade readability level) of narrative or informational text that they read independently, they are generally able to:

- identify two or more central themes or key/main ideas,
- distinguish whether evidence is fact or opinion, and
- identify the meaning of multiple-meaning words and figurative language—including adages—using context.

Grade 8 Proficient

Eighth grade students performing at the **Proficient** level are able to perform almost all of the knowledge and skills that define Novice performance. In addition, based on a paragraph (up to seven sentences written at the mid-fourth grade readability level) of narrative or informational text that they read independently, they are generally able to:

- identify the central themes and claims/arguments made by the author,
- identify the meaning of multiple-meaning words and figurative language—including idioms and personification—using context, and
- answer literal and inferential questions.

Grade 8 Novice

Eighth grade students performing at the **Novice** level are generally able to do the following based on a paragraph (up to seven sentences written at the mid-fourth grade readability level) of informational and/or narrative text they read independently:

- identify evidence that supports a claim/argument made by the author,
- identify the main idea and key details that summarize a text,
- identify the meaning of words and phrases—including those with multiple meanings—using context and/or prefixes, suffixes, and roots, and
- answer basic literal and inferential questions.

Grade 8 Emerging

Eighth grade students performing at the **Emerging** level demonstrate limited understanding of the knowledge and skills assessed on the Level C PASA. Based on a paragraph of informational and/or narrative text (up to seven sentences written at the mid-fourth grade readability level) they may be able to:

- independently read text,
- identify themes or summarizing details,
- identify the meaning of simple words and phrases using context and/or prefixes, suffixes, and roots, and
- answer basic literal or inferential questions.

Grade 11 Advanced

Eleventh grade students performing at the **Advanced** level are able to perform almost all of the knowledge and skills that define Proficient and Novice performance. In addition, based on a paragraph (up to seven sentences, written at the mid-fourth or above grade readability level) of narrative or informational text that they read independently, they are generally able to:

- identify two or more central themes or key/main ideas, and
- identify multiple pieces of evidence that supports a claim/argument made by the author.

Grade 11 Proficient

Eleventh grade students performing at the **Proficient** level are able to perform almost all of the knowledge and skills that define Novice performance. In addition, based on a paragraph (up to seven sentences, written at the mid-fourth or above grade readability level) of narrative or informational text that they read independently, they are generally able to:

- distinguish whether evidence is fact or opinion,
- identify the meaning of multiple-meaning words and figurative language—including idioms, personification, and adages—using context, and answer literal and inferential questions.
- answer literal and inferential questions.

Grade 11 Novice

Eleventh grade students performing at the **Novice** level are generally able to do the following based on a paragraph (up to seven sentences, written at the mid-fourth or above grade readability level) of informational and/or narrative text they read independently:

- identify the central themes and claims/arguments made by the author,
- identify the main idea and key details that summarize a text,
- identify the meaning of words, phrases and figurative language—including those with multiple meanings—using context and/or prefixes, suffixes, and roots, and
- answer basic literal and inferential questions.

Grade 11 Emerging

Eleventh grade students performing at the **Emerging** level demonstrate limited understanding of the knowledge and skills assessed on the Level C PASA. Based on a paragraph of informational and/or narrative text (up to seven sentences, written at the mid-fourth or above grade readability level) they may be able to:

- independently read text,
- identify themes or summarizing details,
- identify the meaning of simple words and phrases using context and/or prefixes, suffixes, and roots, and
- answer basic literal or inferential questions.