State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness Modified (STAAR™ Modified) Performance Level Descriptors Grade 7 Reading

Performance Level Descriptors
When reading a text of increasing complexity,* students achieving Level III: Advanced Academic Performance can • Analyze how the author's use of literary techniques and figurative language contributes to meaning • Analyze how the author develops informational texts to support the main idea or argument • Demonstrate an understanding of informational texts by recognizing how the author organizes and presents ideas • Make complex inferences about literary and informational texts, supporting those inferences with relevant textual evidence
When reading texts of increasing complexity,* students achieving Level II: Satisfactory Academic Performance can • Determine the meaning of unfamiliar words and grade-level academic English words using context, roots and affixes, and reference materials • Recognize in literary texts how the setting and the development of characters influence plot and theme • Demonstrate an understanding of informational texts by identifying the author's purpose and summarizing the text • Make reasonable inferences about literary and informational texts, supporting those inferences with relevant textual evidence
When reading a text of increasing complexity,* students achieving Level I: Unsatisfactory Academic Performance can • Determine the meaning of unfamiliar words using explicit context and reference materials • Demonstrate a literal understanding of literary and informational texts • Make plausible inferences about literary and informational texts

* STAAR Modified reading tests may include published pieces that cannot be simplified according to the Modification Guidelines. Text complexity increases from grade 3 to 8 for a variety of reasons: (1) vocabulary/use of language may be more varied and challenging because it is nonliteral/figurative, abstract, or academic/technical; (2) sentence structures may be more varied, dense, and sophisticated; (3) the author's use of literary elements/devices, rhetorical strategies, organizational patterns, and text features may be more nuanced or sophisticated; (4) the topic/content may be less familiar or more cognitively demanding; and (5) relationships among ideas may be less explicit and require more interpretation, reasoning, and inferential thinking to understand the subtlety, nuances, and depth of ideas.

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