



Alabama Achievement Level Descriptors

Grade 6 – Reading/Language Arts

The descriptions below provide a brief summary of typical performance for each level. The skills identified in each descriptor represent, but are not all-inclusive of, the skills a student should be able to demonstrate at each achievement level.

Language					
Level 1: Emerging Learner		Level 2: Developing Learner		Level 3: Proficient Learner	Level 4: Distinguished Learner
Conventions of Standard English	<p>Demonstrates a limited command of the conventions of Standard English grammar and usage by producing writing with errors that hinder comprehension.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Identifies subject-verb agreement.</i> - <i>Identifies pronouns in the proper case.</i> - <i>Identifies vague pronouns.</i> - <i>Recognizes variations from Standard English in their own writing and speaking.</i> 	<p>Demonstrates a growing command of the conventions of Standard English grammar and usage by producing writing with some errors that may hinder comprehension.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Demonstrates knowledge of subject-verb agreement.</i> - <i>Ensures that pronouns are in the proper case in a simple sentence.</i> - <i>Recognizes inappropriate shifts in pronoun number and person.</i> - <i>Identifies when a vague pronouns is misused.</i> - <i>Recognizes variations from Standard English in their own writing and speaking; identifies strategies to improve expression in conventional language.</i> 	<p>Demonstrates a command of the conventions of Standard English grammar and usage by producing writing with occasional errors that do not significantly hinder comprehension.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Demonstrates knowledge of subject-verb agreement when interrupted by a prepositional phrase.</i> - <i>Ensures that pronouns are in the proper case.</i> - <i>Uses intensive pronouns.</i> - <i>Recognizes and corrects inappropriate shifts in pronoun number and person.</i> - <i>Recognizes and corrects vague pronouns.</i> - <i>Recognizes variations from Standard English in their own and others' writing and speaking; identifies and uses strategies to improve expression in conventional language.</i> 	<p>Demonstrates a confident command of the conventions of Standard English grammar and usage by producing writing with few errors.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Demonstrates and applies knowledge of subject-verb agreement when interrupted by a prepositional phrase.</i> - <i>Ensures that pronouns are in the proper case.</i> - <i>Uses intensive pronouns for effect, recognizing when to use "self" versus "selves."</i> - <i>Recognizes and corrects inappropriate shifts in pronoun number and person.</i> - <i>Recognizes and corrects vague pronouns in their own and in others' work.</i> - <i>Recognizes variations from Standard English in their own and others' writing and speaking; identifies and uses strategies to improve and enhance expression in conventional language.</i> 	



Alabama Achievement Level Descriptors

Grade 6 – Reading/Language Arts

The descriptions below provide a brief summary of typical performance for each level. The skills identified in each descriptor represent, but are not all-inclusive of, the skills a student should be able to demonstrate at each achievement level.

Language				
	Level 1: Emerging Learner	Level 2: Developing Learner	Level 3: Proficient Learner	Level 4: Distinguished Learner
Conventions of Standard English	<p>Demonstrates a limited command of the conventions of Standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling by producing writing with errors that hinder comprehension.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Identifies correct spelling of common words.</i> 	<p>Demonstrates a basic command of the conventions of Standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling to produce writing with some errors that may hinder comprehension.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Spells common words correctly.</i> 	<p>Demonstrates a command of the conventions of Standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing to produce writing with occasional errors that do not significantly hinder comprehension.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Uses punctuation to set off nonrestrictive/parenthetical elements.</i> - <i>Spells correctly.</i> 	<p>Demonstrates a confident command of the conventions of Standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing to produce writing with few errors.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Uses punctuation to set off nonrestrictive/parenthetical elements.</i> - <i>Spells uncommon words correctly.</i>
Knowledge of Language	<p>Exhibits an imprecise and inaccurate use of language and its conventions when reading and writing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Varies sentence patterns.</i> - <i>Maintains limited consistency in style or tone.</i> 	<p>Exhibits an inconsistent, occasionally limited, or imprecise use of language and its conventions when reading and writing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Includes variation in sentence patterns for meaning.</i> - <i>Maintains some consistency in style or tone.</i> 	<p>Exhibits a competent use of language and its conventions when reading and writing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Varies sentence patterns for meaning, reader/listener interest, and style.</i> - <i>Maintains consistency in style and tone.</i> 	<p>Exhibits a skillful and precise use of language and its conventions when reading and writing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Varies sentence patterns for meaning, reader/listener interest, and style.</i> - <i>Maintains consistency in style and tone, keeping purpose and audience in mind.</i>



Alabama Achievement Level Descriptors

Grade 6 – Reading/Language Arts

The descriptions below provide a brief summary of typical performance for each level. The skills identified in each descriptor represent, but are not all-inclusive of, the skills a student should be able to demonstrate at each achievement level.

Language					
Level 1: Emerging Learner		Level 2: Developing Learner		Level 3: Proficient Learner	Level 4: Distinguished Learner
Vocabulary Acquisition and Use	Determines the meaning of simple, unknown words.	Determines or clarifies the meaning of some unknown and multiple-meaning words and simple phrases based on grade 6 reading and content, choosing from basic strategies.	Determines or clarifies the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on grade 6 reading and content, choosing from a range of strategies.	Determines or clarifies with precision and detail the meaning of challenging unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on grade 6 reading and content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Uses context as a clue to the meaning of a simple word.</i> - <i>Identifies common affixes and roots.</i> - <i>Consults reference materials and context to determine the meaning of a simple word or its part of speech.</i> - <i>Chooses the preliminary determination of the meaning of basic words.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Uses context as a clue to the meaning of a word or simple phrase.</i> - <i>Uses common, grade-appropriate affixes and roots.</i> - <i>Consults reference materials to find the pronunciation of a word or determine its meaning or its part of speech.</i> - <i>Verifies the preliminary determination of the meaning of a word.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Uses context as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase.</i> - <i>Uses common, grade-appropriate affixes and roots as clues to the meaning of a word.</i> - <i>Consults reference materials to find the pronunciation of a word or determine or clarify its precise meaning or its part of speech.</i> - <i>Verifies the preliminary determination of the meaning of a word or phrase using context or reference materials.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Uses context as a clue to the meaning of a challenging word or phrase.</i> - <i>Defines grade-appropriate affixes and roots and uses them as clues to the meaning of a challenging word.</i> - <i>Consults reference materials to find the pronunciation of a challenging word or determine or clarify its precise meaning or its part of speech.</i> - <i>Verifies the preliminary determination of the meaning of a challenging word or phrase using context or reference materials.</i> 	



Alabama Achievement Level Descriptors

Grade 6 – Reading/Language Arts

The descriptions below provide a brief summary of typical performance for each level. The skills identified in each descriptor represent, but are not all-inclusive of, the skills a student should be able to demonstrate at each achievement level.

Language					
Level 1: Emerging Learner		Level 2: Developing Learner		Level 3: Proficient Learner	Level 4: Distinguished Learner
Vocabulary Acquisition and Use	<p>Demonstrates a limited understanding figurative language and word relationships.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Identifies figures of speech.</i> - <i>Recognizes an obvious relationship between common words in context.</i> - <i>Identifies common words with similar denotations.</i> 	<p>Demonstrates a basic understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Interprets common figures of speech in context.</i> - <i>Uses common or obvious relationships between words to better understand each of the words.</i> - <i>Recognizes that some words with similar denotations have different connotations.</i> 	<p>Demonstrates an understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings by choosing words that suit the purpose.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Interprets figures of speech in context.</i> - <i>Uses the relationship between particular words to better understand each of the words.</i> - <i>Differentiates between the connotations of words with similar denotations.</i> 	<p>Demonstrates an in-depth understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings by choosing words precisely and purposefully.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Interprets complex figures of speech in and out of context.</i> - <i>Uses and explains the complex relationship, between particular words to better understand each of the words.</i> - <i>Differentiates between the connotations of advanced or complicated words with similar denotations using context and tone.</i> 	
	<p>Uses grade 6-appropriate, conversational words and phrases.</p>	<p>Uses grade 6-appropriate, conversational and general academic words and phrases.</p>	<p>Uses grade 6-appropriate, general academic, and domain-specific words and phrases.</p>	<p>Uses grade 6-appropriate, general academic, and domain-specific words and phrases.</p>	



Alabama Achievement Level Descriptors

Grade 6 – Reading/Language Arts

The descriptions below provide a brief summary of typical performance for each level. The skills identified in each descriptor represent, but are not all-inclusive of, the skills a student should be able to demonstrate at each achievement level.

Reading - Literature							
Level 1: Emerging Learner		Level 2: Developing Learner		Level 3: Proficient Learner		Level 4: Distinguished Learner	
Key Ideas and Details	Refers to details when explaining what the text says explicitly.	Cites textual evidence when explaining what the text says explicitly as well as when drawing simple inferences from the text.	Cites textual evidence to support an analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.	Cites textual evidence to support a detailed and nuanced analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.			
	Identifies the main idea of a text; provides a basic summary of the text with few details.	Determines the theme of a text; provides a basic summary of the text with few details.	Determines a theme or central idea and how it is conveyed through particular details; provides a thorough summary of the text distinct from personal opinions or judgments.	Determines a complex theme or central idea and explains how it is conveyed through particular details; provides a detailed and nuanced summary of the text distinct from personal opinions, judgments, or inaccuracies.			
	Describes the main events in a plot or how a character changes.	Describes how a plot unfolds as well as how a character responds or changes as the plot moves toward a resolution.	Describes how a plot unfolds in a series of episodes as well as how the characters respond or change as the plot moves toward a resolution.	Describes how a plot unfolds in a series of episodes as well as how the characters respond or change as the plot moves toward a resolution, demonstrating a clear understanding of the subtleties of episodic plot development, including the influence of character actions.			



Alabama Achievement Level Descriptors

Grade 6 – Reading/Language Arts

The descriptions below provide a brief summary of typical performance for each level. The skills identified in each descriptor represent, but are not all-inclusive of, the skills a student should be able to demonstrate at each achievement level.

Reading - Literature					
Level 1: Emerging Learner		Level 2: Developing Learner		Level 3: Proficient Learner	Level 4: Distinguished Learner
Craft and Structure	Determines the meaning of simple words and phrases as used in a text.	Determines the meaning of words and simple phrases as used in a text, including figurative and connotative meanings; identifies the meaning or tone.	Determines the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyzes the impact of a specific word choice on meaning and tone.	Determines the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including sophisticated figurative and connotative meanings; provides a detailed and nuanced analysis of the impact of a specific word choice on meaning and tone.	
	Identifies a basic text structure.	Identifies the overall structure of a text and the development of the theme, setting, or plot.	Describes how a particular part fits into the overall structure of a text and contributes to the development of the theme, setting, or plot.	Analyzes how particular parts fit into the overall structure of a text and contribute to the development of the theme, setting, or plot.	
	Identifies the narrator's or speaker's point of view.	Explains how an author develops the point of view of the narrator or speaker when given explicit information from the text.	Explains how an author develops the point of view of the narrator or speaker.	Provides a detailed and nuanced explanation of how an author develops the point of view of the narrator or speaker.	



Alabama Achievement Level Descriptors

Grade 6 – Reading/Language Arts

The descriptions below provide a brief summary of typical performance for each level. The skills identified in each descriptor represent, but are not all-inclusive of, the skills a student should be able to demonstrate at each achievement level.

Reading - Literature							
Level 1: Emerging Learner		Level 2: Developing Learner		Level 3: Proficient Learner		Level 4: Distinguished Learner	
Integration of Knowledge and Ideas	Recognizes that there is a difference between the experience of reading a text to listening to or viewing an audio, video, or live version.	Identifies the main similarities or differences between the experience of reading a text to listening to or viewing an audio, video, or live version.	Compares and contrasts the experience of reading a text to listening to or viewing an audio, video, or live version.	Compares and contrasts, in detail, the experience of reading a text to listening to or viewing an audio, video, or live version.			
	Identifies odes, ballads, epic poetry, and science fiction.	Recognizes major differences among odes, ballads, epic poetry, and science fiction	Differentiates among odes, ballads, epic poetry, and science fiction.	Analyzes the differences among odes, ballads, epic poetry, and science fiction.			
	Recognizes that different genres approach themes and topics differently.	Identifies some ways in which different forms or genres approach similar themes and topics.	Compares and contrasts different forms or genres in terms of their approaches to similar themes and topics.	Compares and contrasts different forms or genres in terms of their approaches to similar themes and topics, drawing on details to support an analysis.			
Range of Reading and Level of Text Complexity	Reads stories, dramas, and poems in the Grade 6-8 complexity band with limited comprehension and significant scaffolding.	Reads stories, dramas, and poems in the Grade 6-8 complexity band with basic comprehension and significant scaffolding.	Reads stories, dramas, and poems at the high end of the Grade 6-8 complexity band with thorough comprehension and limited scaffolding.	Reads stories, dramas, and poems at the high end of the Grade 6-8 complexity band independently with in-depth comprehension.			



Alabama Achievement Level Descriptors

Grade 6 – Reading/Language Arts

The descriptions below provide a brief summary of typical performance for each level. The skills identified in each descriptor represent, but are not all-inclusive of, the skills a student should be able to demonstrate at each achievement level.

Reading - Informational Text					
Level 1: Emerging Learner		Level 2: Developing Learner		Level 3: Proficient Learner	Level 4: Distinguished Learner
Key Ideas and Details	Refers to a text when explaining what the text says explicitly.	Cites textual evidence when explaining what the text says explicitly as well as simple inferences drawn from the text.	Cites textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.	Cites textual evidence to support a detailed or nuanced analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.	
	Chooses the main idea; provides a limited summary of the text.	Determines the central idea; provides a basic summary with few details.	Determines the central idea and explains how it is conveyed through particular details; provides a thorough summary distinct from personal opinions or judgments.	Determines central ideas and explains how they are conveyed through particular details; provides a detailed, nuanced, and accurate summary distinct from personal opinions or judgments.	
	Identifies a key individual, event, or idea that is developed in a text.	Analyzes how a key individual, event, or idea is introduced or illustrated in a text.	Analyzes how a key individual, event, or idea is introduced, illustrated, and elaborated on in a text.	Analyzes how key individuals, events, or ideas are introduced, illustrated, and elaborated on in a text, using textual evidence to demonstrate a thorough understanding of what was read.	



Alabama Achievement Level Descriptors

Grade 6 – Reading/Language Arts

The descriptions below provide a brief summary of typical performance for each level. The skills identified in each descriptor represent, but are not all-inclusive of, the skills a student should be able to demonstrate at each achievement level.

Reading - Informational Text					
Level 1: Emerging Learner		Level 2: Developing Learner		Level 3: Proficient Learner	Level 4: Distinguished Learner
Craft and Structure	Determines the meaning of simple words and phrases as they are used in a text.	Determines the meaning of words and simple phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative or connotative.	Determines the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative, connotative, and technical.	Determines the meaning of challenging words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative, connotative, and technical.	
	Identifies the overall structure.	Describes the overall structure and the development of the ideas.	Analyzes how particular parts fit into the overall structure and contribute to the development of ideas.	Analyzes how particular parts fit into the overall structure and contribute to the development of complex ideas.	
	Identifies an author's point of view or purpose in a text.	Determines an author's point of view or purpose in a text.	Determines an author's point of view or purpose and explains how it is conveyed in the text.	Determines an author's point of view or purpose by providing a detailed and nuanced explanation of how it is conveyed in the text.	



Alabama Achievement Level Descriptors

Grade 6 – Reading/Language Arts

The descriptions below provide a brief summary of typical performance for each level. The skills identified in each descriptor represent, but are not all-inclusive of, the skills a student should be able to demonstrate at each achievement level.

Reading - Informational Text					
Level 1: Emerging Learner		Level 2: Developing Learner		Level 3: Proficient Learner	Level 4: Distinguished Learner
Integration of Knowledge and Ideas	Uses information presented in different media formats as well as in words to develop a basic understanding of a topic.	Integrates information presented in different media formats as well as in words to develop an understanding of a topic or issue.	Integrates information presented in different media formats as well as in words to develop a coherent understanding of a topic or issue.	Integrates information presented in different media formats as well as in words to develop a coherent and in-depth understanding of a topic or issue.	
	Identifies the argument and specific claims in a text.	Traces and evaluates the argument and specific claims in a text.	Traces and evaluates the argument and specific claims in a text, distinguishing claims that are supported by reasons and evidence from claims that are not.	Traces and evaluates the argument and specific claims in a text, distinguishing between multiple claims that are supported by reasons and evidence from claims that are not.	
	Identifies an author's presentation of events.	Compares and contrasts basic information from one author's presentation of events with that of another.	Compares and contrasts one author's presentation of events with that of another.	Analyzes one author's presentation of events with that of another.	
Range of Reading and Level of Text Complexity	Reads texts at the high end of the Grade 6-8 complexity band with limited comprehension and significant scaffolding.	Reads texts at the high end of the Grade 6-8 complexity band with basic comprehension and some scaffolding.	Reads texts at the high end of the Grade 6-8 complexity band independently and proficiently with thorough comprehension and limited scaffolding.	Reads texts at the high end of the Grade 6-8 complexity band independently and masterfully with in-depth comprehension.	