Alabama Achievement Level Descriptors
Grade 7 – 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	Demonstrates a limited command of the conventions of Standard English grammar and usage by producing writing with errors that hinder comprehension. - *Identifies subject-verb agreement.* - *Identifies the function of phrases and clauses in general.* - *Chooses simple sentences to signal differing relationships among ideas.* - *Places common phrases and clauses within a simple sentence.*	Demonstrates a basic command of the conventions of Standard English grammar and usage by producing writing with some errors that may hinder comprehension. - *Demonstrates basic knowledge of subject-verb agreement.* - *Describes the function of phrases and clauses in general and in specific sentences.* - *Chooses among simple and compound sentences to signal differing relationships among ideas.* - *Places common phrases and clauses within a sentence; recognizes misplaced and dangling modifiers.*	Demonstrates a command of the conventions of Standard English grammar and usage by producing writing with occasional errors that do not significantly hinder comprehension. - *Demonstrates knowledge of subject-verb agreement.* - *Explains the function of phrases and clauses in general and in specific sentences.* - *Chooses among simple, compound, complex, and compound-complex sentences to signal differing relationships among ideas.* - *Places phrases and clauses within a sentence; recognizes and corrects misplaced and dangling modifiers.*	Demonstrates a confident command of the conventions of Standard English grammar and usage by producing writing with few errors. - *Demonstrates knowledge of subject-verb agreement.* - *Explains the function of phrases and clauses in general and in specific sentences.* - *Forms simple, compound, complex, and compound-complex sentences to signal differing relationships among ideas.* - *Places complex phrases and clauses within a sentence; explains, recognizes, and corrects misplaced and dangling modifiers.*

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Alabama Achievement Level Descriptors
Grade 7 – 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	Demonstrates a limited command of the conventions of Standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling by producing writing with errors that hinder comprehension. - *Chooses the correct spelling of common words.*	Demonstrates a growing command of the conventions of Standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling by producing writing with some errors that may hinder comprehension. - *Spells common words correctly.*	Demonstrates a command of the conventions of Standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling by producing writing with occasional errors that do not significantly hinder comprehension. - *Uses a comma to separate coordinate adjectives.* - *Spells correctly.*	Demonstrates a confident command of the conventions of Standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling by producing writing with few errors. - *Uses a comma to separate coordinate adjectives.* - *Spells uncommon and challenging words correctly.*
Knowledge of Language	Exhibits an imprecise and inaccurate use of language and its conventions when reading and writing. - *Chooses language that expresses an idea.*	Exhibits an inconsistent, occasionally limited, or imprecise use of language and its conventions when reading and writing. - *Chooses language that expresses an idea, recognizing wordiness and redundancy.*	Exhibits a competent use of language and its conventions when reading and writing. - *Chooses language that expresses ideas precisely and concisely, recognizing and eliminating wordiness and redundancy.*	Exhibits a skillful and precise use of language and its conventions when reading and writing. - *Chooses sophisticated and colorful language that expresses ideas precisely and concisely, recognizing and eliminating wordiness and redundancy.*

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Alabama Achievement Level Descriptors
Grade 7 – Reading/Language Arts

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Language			
Level 1: **Emerging Learner**	**Level 2:** **Developing Learner**	**Level 3:** **Proficient Learner**	**Level 4:** **Distinguished Learner**

Vocabulary Acquisition and Use

Level 1: Emerging Learner	Level 2: Developing Learner	Level 3: Proficient Learner	Level 4: Distinguished Learner
Determines or clarifies the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on grade 7 reading and content.	Determines or clarifies inadequately or inconsistently the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on grade 7 reading and content, using a limited range of strategies.	Determines or clarifies the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on grade 7 reading and content, choosing from a range of strategies.	Determines or clarifies with precision and detail the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on grade 7 reading and content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.
- *Uses context as a clue to the meaning of a simple word.* - *Identifies common affixes and roots.* - *Consults reference materials to determine the meaning of a common word or its part of speech.* - *Verifies the preliminary determination of the meaning of a simple word.*	- *Uses context as a clue to the meaning of a word or simple phrase.* - *Uses common, grade-appropriate affixes and roots.* - *Consults reference materials to find the pronunciation of a word or determine its meaning or its part of speech.* - *Verifies the preliminary determination of the meaning of a word or simple phrase.*	- *Uses context as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase.* - *Uses common, grade-appropriate affixes and roots as clues to the meaning of a word.* - *Consults reference materials to find the pronunciation of a word or determine or clarify its precise meaning or its part of speech.* - *Verifies the preliminary determination of the meaning of a word or phrase.*	- *Uses context as a clue to the meaning of uncommon or complex words and phrases.* - *Defines uncommon, grade-appropriate affixes and roots as clues to the meaning of a word.* - *Consults reference materials to find the pronunciation of a word or determine or clarify its precise meaning or its part of speech; applies definitions to real-world situations.* - *Verifies the preliminary determination of the meaning of a sophisticated word or complex phrase.*

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Alabama Achievement Level Descriptors
Grade 7 – 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 Demonstrates an inability to understand figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings by choosing words that show no connection to purpose. - *Identifies common figures of speech in context.* - *Recognizes the relationships between common words.* - *Recognizes words with similar denotations.*	Demonstrates a limited understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings by choosing words that show little or no connection to purpose. - *Interprets commons figures of speech in context.* - *Recognizes or uses the relationships between common words to better understand each of the words.* - *Recognizes the connotations of words with similar denotations.*	Demonstrates an understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings by choosing words that suit the purpose. - *Interprets figures of speech in context.* - *Uses the relationships between particular words to better understand each of the words.* - *Differentiates between the connotations of words with similar denotations.*	Demonstrates an in-depth understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings by choosing words precisely and purposefully. - *Interprets sophisticated figures of speech in and out of context.* - *Uses and explains the relationships between complex words to better understand each of the words.* - *Differentiates between the connotations of words with similar denotations, drawing on context and tone.*
Uses grade 7-appropriate, conversational and general academic words.	Uses grade 7-appropriate, conversational and general academic, and domain-specific words.	Uses grade 7-appropriate, general academic, and domain-specific words and phrases.	Uses grade 7-appropriate, general academic, and domain-specific words and phrases in a precise and nuanced way.

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Alabama Achievement Level Descriptors
Grade 7 – 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 simple details to determine what the text says explicitly as well as to draw simple inferences.	Refers to details or cites textual evidence to support what the text says explicitly as well as to draw inferences.	Cites several pieces of textual evidence to support an analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as to draw inferences.	Cites several pieces of textual evidence to support an in-depth analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as to draw subtle inferences.
	Identifies the central idea or theme; provides a limited summary of the text.	Determines a theme or central idea; provides a basic summary of the text.	Determines a theme or central idea of a text and analyzes its development; provides an objective summary of the text.	Determines a theme or central idea of the text using nuanced phrasing, and provides a detailed analysis of its development; provides a nuanced, detailed, and objective summary of the text.
	Identifies when particular elements of a text interact.	Provides a basic analysis of how explicit elements of a text interact.	Provides a thorough analysis of how particular elements of a text interact.	Provides a detailed and nuanced analysis of how subtle elements of a text interact, understanding the subtle ways in which the interactions are depicted.

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Alabama Achievement Level Descriptors
Grade 7 – 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 used in a text.	Determines the meaning of words and simple phrases used in a text, including figurative and connotative meanings.	Determines the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyzes the impact of rhymes and other repetitions of sounds.	Determines the meaning of challenging words and complex phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative and connotative meanings; provides a nuanced and detailed analysis of the impact of rhymes and other repetitions of sounds.
	Identifies how a basic text's structure contributes to its meaning.	Explains or analyzes how a basic text's form or structure contributes to its meaning.	Analyzes how a text's form or structure contributes to its meaning.	Provides a detailed and nuanced analysis of how a text's form or structure contributes to its meaning.
	Recognizes the points of view of a character or narrator.	Recognizes how an author develops or contrasts the points of view of different characters or narrators.	Analyzes how an author develops and contrasts the points of view of different characters or narrators.	Provides a detailed and nuanced analysis of how an author develops and contrasts the points of view of different characters or narrators.

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Alabama Achievement Level Descriptors
Grade 7 – 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

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
Identifies that a text will be both similar and different an audio, video, or multimedia version.	Compares or contrasts a text to an audio, video, or multimedia version.	Compares and contrasts a text to an audio, video, or multimedia version, analyzing the effects of techniques unique to each medium.	Compares and contrasts a text to an audio, video, or multimedia version, providing an in-depth analysis of the effects of techniques unique to each medium.
Compares or contrasts a fictional portrayal of a time and a historical account of the same period.	Compares or contrasts a fictional portrayal of a time or place and a historical account of the same period, noting that authors of fiction alter history.	Compares and contrasts a fictional portrayal of a time, place, or character and a historical account of the same period as a means of understanding how authors of fiction use or alter history.	Compares, contrasts, and analyzes a fictional portrayal of a time, place, or character and a historical account of the same period as a means of understanding how authors of fiction use or alter history.

Range of Reading and Level of Text Complexity

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
Reads stories, dramas, and poems in the Grade 6-8 complexity band with limited comprehension.	Reads stories, dramas, and poems in the Grade 6-8 complexity band with basic comprehension and significant scaffolding.	Reads stories, dramas, and poems in the Grade 6-8 complexity band with thorough comprehension and limited scaffolding.	Reads stories, dramas, and poems in the Grade 6-8 complexity band with in-depth comprehension and little to no scaffolding.

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Alabama Achievement Level Descriptors
Grade 7 – 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**
Refers to details to describe what the text says explicitly as well as simple inferences.	Refers to details or cites basic textual evidence to support what the text says explicitly as well as inferences.	Cites several pieces of textual evidence to support an analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences.	Cites several pieces of textual evidence to support an in-depth analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences.
Determines a central idea; provides a limited summary.	Determines one or more central ideas; provides a basic summary.	Determines two or more central ideas and analyzes their development over the course of the text; provides an objective summary.	Determines two or more central ideas and provides a detailed and nuanced analysis of their development over the course of the text; provides a nuanced, detailed, and objective summary.
Analyzes the basic interactions between individuals in a text.	Analyzes the interactions between individuals and events in a text.	Analyzes the interactions between individuals, events, and ideas in a text.	Analyzes the complex interactions between individuals, events, and ideas in a text, demonstrating a clear understanding of the subtleties inherent in these interactions.

Key Ideas and Details (row label)

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Grade 7 – 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

Level 1: Emerging Learner	Level 2: Developing Learner	Level 3: Proficient Learner	Level 4: Distinguished Learner
Determines the meaning of common words in a text.	Determines the meaning of words and common phrases in a text, including figurative and connotative.	Determines the meaning of words and phrases in a text, including figurative and connotative; analyzes the impact of a specific word choice on meaning and tone.	Determines the meaning of common and uncommon words and phrases in a text, including figurative and connotative; provides a nuanced and detailed analysis of the impact of a specific word choice on meaning and tone.
Identifies the basic structure an author uses to organize a text.	Identifies or analyzes the basic structure an author uses to organize a text, including how the major sections contribute to the whole.	Analyzes how the author organizes the text, including how the major sections contribute to the whole and to the development of the ideas.	Analyzes the structure in a text by providing a detailed and nuanced analysis of how the author organizes the text, including how the major sections contribute to the whole and to the development of the ideas.
Determines a general 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 in a text and analyzes how the author distinguishes his or her position from that of others.	Determines an author's point of view or purpose in a text by precisely determining and providing a detailed and nuanced explanation of how the author distinguishes his or her position from that of others.

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Alabama Achievement Level Descriptors
Grade 7 – 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**
Recognizes that a text will differ from its audio, video, or multimedia version.	Identifies the similarities and differences between a text and its audio, video, or multimedia version, understanding each medium's portrayal of the subject.	Compares and contrasts a text to an audio, video, or multimedia version, analyzing each medium's portrayal of the subject.	Compares or contrasts a text to an audio, video, or multimedia version, providing an in-depth analysis of each medium's portrayal of the subject.
Identifies the arguments and 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, assessing whether the reasoning is sound and the evidence is relevant and sufficient to support the claims.	Traces and evaluates the argument and specific claims in a text, fully and precisely assessing whether the reasoning is sound and the evidence is relevant and sufficient to support the claims.
Identifies how two authors treat similar subject matter.	Analyzes how two authors treat similar subject matter; recognizes how emphasizing different evidence shapes the authors' presentation of key information.	Analyzes how two or more authors writing about the same topic shape their presentations of key information by emphasizing different evidence or advancing different interpretations of facts.	Analyzes and explains how two or more authors writing about the same topic shape their presentations of key information by emphasizing different evidence or advancing different interpretations of facts.

Integration of Knowledge and Ideas (row label, rotated)

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Alabama Achievement Level Descriptors
Grade 7 – 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**
Reads informational texts in the Grade 6-8 complexity band with limited comprehension and significant scaffolding.	Reads informational texts in the Grade 6-8 complexity band with basic comprehension and significant scaffolding.	Reads informational texts in the Grade 6-8 complexity band with thorough and consistent comprehension and limited scaffolding.	Reads informational texts in the Grade 6-8 complexity band with in-depth comprehension and little to no scaffolding.

Range of Reading and Level of Text Complexity

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