Alabama Achievement Level Descriptors
Grade 8 – 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. - *Identifies a verbal.* - *Uses verbs.*	Demonstrates a basic command of the conventions of Standard English grammar and usage. - *Chooses words to ensure subject-verb agreement.* - *Identifies the function of verbals.* - *Forms and uses verbs.* - *Uses verbs in the indicative, imperative, and interrogative mood.* - *Recognizes inappropriate shifts in verb voice and mood.*	Demonstrates a strong command of the conventions of Standard English grammar and usage. - *Applies rules of subject-verb agreement.* - *Explains the function of verbals in general and in particular sentences.* - *Forms and uses verbs in the active and passive voice.* - *Forms and uses verbs in the indicative, imperative, interrogative, conditional, and subjunctive mood.* - *Recognizes and corrects inappropriate shifts in verb voice and mood.*	Demonstrates a confident command of the conventions of Standard English grammar and usage. - *Applies and explains the rules of subject-verb agreement.* - *Explains the function of verbals in general and in particular sentences.* - *Forms, uses, and identifies verbs in the active and passive voice.* - *Forms, uses, and explains the difference among verbs in the indicative, imperative, interrogative, conditional, and subjunctive mood.* - *Recognizes, corrects, and explains inappropriate shifts in verb voice and mood.*

Alabama Achievement Level Descriptors
Grade 8 – 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. - *Uses commas to indicate a pause or break.* - *Identifies correct spelling.*	Demonstrates a basic command of the conventions of Standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling. - *Uses commas or ellipses to indicate a pause or break.* - *Identifies ellipses.* - *Spells simple words correctly.*	Demonstrates a command of the conventions of Standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling. - *Uses punctuation to indicate a pause or break.* - *Uses an ellipsis to indicate an omission.* - *Spells correctly.*	Demonstrates a confident command of the conventions of Standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling. - *Uses punctuation to indicate a pause or break and explains the reason for the chosen punctuation.* - *Uses an ellipsis to indicate an omission and explains its function.* - *Spells complex words correctly.*
Knowledge of Language	Exhibits a limited use of language and its conventions. - *Recognizes verb voice and mood.*	Exhibits a basic use of language and its conventions. - *Recognizes verbs in the active and passive voice or in the conditional and subjunctive mood.*	Exhibits a competent use of language and its conventions. - *Uses verbs in the active and passive voice and in the conditional and subjunctive mood to achieve particular effects.*	Exhibits a confident use of language and its conventions. - *Uses verbs in the active and passive voice and in the conditional and subjunctive mood to achieve particular effects and explains the reason for the chosen voice.*

SCANTRON

Alabama Achievement Level Descriptors
Grade 8 – 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**
Determines the meaning of simple, unknown, and multiple-meaning words.	Determines or clarifies the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and simple phrases, using basic strategies.	Determines or clarifies the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.	Determines or clarifies with precision the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases, choosing flexibly from a broad range of strategies.
- *Uses context as a clue to the meaning of a simple word.* - *Identifies common, grade-appropriate affixes and roots.* - *Consults reference materials to find the meaning or part of speech of a common word.* - *Uses a dictionary.*	- *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.*	- *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 a word's pronunciation or to determine or clarify its precise meaning or its part of speech.* - *Verifies the preliminary determination of the meaning of a word or phrase in context or in a dictionary.*	- *Uses context as a clue to the meaning of a challenging word or complex phrase.* - *Uses both common and less common affixes and roots as clues to the meaning of a word.* - *Consults reference materials to find a word's pronunciation or to determine or clarify its precise or nuanced meaning or its part of speech.* - *Verifies the preliminary determination of the meaning of a challenging word or phrase in and out of context, referencing a dictionary when needed.*

Vocabulary Acquisition and Use

SCANTRON

Alabama Achievement Level Descriptors
Grade 8 – 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 a limited understanding of figurative language and word relationships. - *Identifies basic figures of speech in context.* - *Recognizes the relationships between common words.* - *Recognizes words with similar denotations.*	Demonstrates a basic understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings. - *Identifies and interprets basic figures of speech in context.* - *Recognizes or uses the relationships between common words to better understand each of the words.* - *Recognizes the connotations of some 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 relationship 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 and explains sophisticated figures of speech in and out of context.* - *Uses and explains the relationship between particular words to better understand each of the words.* - *Differentiates between the connotations of words with similar denotations drawing on context and tone.*
	Uses grade 8-appropriate conversational and simple general academic words and phrases.	Uses grade 8-appropriate conversational and general academic words and phrases.	Uses grade 8-appropriate general academic, and domain-specific words and phrases.	Uses, in a precise and nuanced way, grade 8-appropriate general academic, and domain-specific words and phrases.

Alabama Achievement Level Descriptors
Grade 8 – 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 to determine what the text says explicitly as well as simple inferences drawn from the text.	Refers to details to support what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.	Cites textual evidence that most strongly supports an analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.	Cites multiple pieces of textual evidence that most strongly support an analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.
	Identifies the central idea; provides a limited summary of the text.	Determines the central idea or theme and explains its development; provides a basic summary of the text.	Determines a theme or central idea and analyzes its development, including its relationship to the characters, setting, and plot; provides an objective summary of the text.	Determines a theme or central idea and analyzes its development in detail, including its subtle relationship to the characters, setting, and plot; provides a detailed and objective summary of the text.
	Identifies particular lines of dialogue in a text that reveal aspects of a character or provoke a decision.	Explains how particular lines of dialogue or incidents in a text propel the action, reveal aspects of a character, or provoke a decision.	Analyzes how particular lines of dialogue or incidents in a text propel the action, reveal aspects of a character, or provoke a decision.	Analyzes how particular lines of dialogue or incidents in a text propel the action, reveal aspects of a character, or provoke a decision, including subtle interactions.

SCANTRON.

Alabama Achievement Level Descriptors
Grade 8 – 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

Level 1: Emerging Learner	Level 2: Developing Learner	Level 3: Proficient Learner	Level 4: Distinguished Learner
Determines the meaning of simple words as they are used in a text; identifies tone.	Determines the meaning of words and simple phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative and connotative; describes the impact of word choice on meaning and tone.	Determines the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative and connotative; analyzes the impact of specific word choice on meaning and tone, including analogies or allusions to other texts.	Determines the meaning of challenging words and complex phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative and connotative; provides a detailed and nuanced analysis of the impact of specific word choice on meaning and tone, including analogies or allusions to other texts.
Identifies the structure of texts.	Compares and contrasts the overall structure of two or more texts.	Compares and contrasts the structure of two or more texts and analyzes how the differing structures contribute to meaning and style.	Compares and contrasts the structure of two or more texts and provides a detailed and nuanced analysis, supported with evidence, of how the differing structures contribute to meaning and style.
Identifies the points of view of the characters and the audience or reader.	Explains the differences in the points of view of the characters and the audience or reader.	Analyzes how differences in the points of view of the characters and the audience or reader create such effects as suspense or humor.	Evaluates point of view by providing a detailed and nuanced analysis of how differences in the points of view of the characters and the audience or reader create such effects as suspense or humor.

SCANTRON

Alabama Achievement Level Descriptors
Grade 8 – 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 a filmed or live production of a text may stay faithful to, or depart, from the text.	Identifies how a filmed or live production of a text stays faithful to or departs from the text.	Analyzes the extent to which a filmed or live production of a text stays faithful to or departs from the text, evaluating the choices made by the director or actors.	Analyzes the extent to which a filmed or live production of a text stays faithful to or departs from the text, evaluating minor choices made by the director or actors and uses evidence to support the analysis.
	Describes themes, patterns of events, or character types found in modern fiction or in myths, traditional stories, or religious works.	Analyzes themes, patterns of events, or character types found in modern fiction or in myths, traditional stories, or religious works.	Analyzes how modern fiction draws on themes, patterns of events, or character types from myths, traditional stories, or religious works, including describing how the material is rendered new.	Analyzes and explains with textual evidence how modern fiction draws on themes, patterns of events, or character types from myths, traditional stories, or religious works, including describing how the material is rendered new.
Range of Reading and Level of Text Complexity	Reads stories, dramas, and poems at the high end of the Grade 6-8 complexity band with limited comprehension and significant scaffolding.	Reads stories, dramas, and poems at the high end of the Grade 6-8 complexity band with basic comprehension and some scaffolding.	Reads stories, dramas, and poems at the high end of the Grade 6-8 complexity band independently and proficiently with thorough comprehension.	Reads stories, dramas, and poems at the high end of the Grade 6-8 complexity band independently and masterfully with in-depth comprehension.

SCANTRON

Alabama Achievement Level Descriptors
Grade 8 – 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 drawn from the text.	Refers to details or cites textual evidence that supports what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.	Cites the textual evidence that most strongly supports an analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.	Cites the textual evidence that most strongly supports an in-depth analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.
Identifies the subject matter addressed in a text; provides a limited summary of the text.	Determines a central idea in a text and explains its basic development; provides a basic summary of the text.	Determines a central idea and analyzes its development, including its relationship to supporting ideas; provides an objective summary of the text.	Determines a central idea and provides a detailed and nuanced analysis of its development, including its relationship to supporting ideas; provides a nuanced and objective summary of the text.
Identifies simple connections made in a text between individuals or events.	Analyzes how a text makes basic connections among and distinctions between individuals, ideas, or events.	Analyzes how a text makes connections among and distinctions between individuals, ideas, or events.	Analyzes and evaluates how a text makes connections among and distinctions between individuals, ideas, or events, demonstrating a clear understanding of subtleties.

Key Ideas and Details (row label)

SCANTRON

Alabama Achievement Level Descriptors
Grade 8 – 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 in a text; identifies tone.	Determines the meaning of words and phrases in a text, including figurative and connotative; identifies the impact of word choice on meaning and tone.	Determines the meaning of words and phrases in a text, including figurative, connotative, and technical; analyzes the impact of specific word choice on meaning and tone, including analogies or allusions to other texts.	Determines the meaning of challenging words and complex phrases in a text, including figurative, connotative, and technical; provides a detailed and nuanced analysis of the impact of specific word choice on meaning and tone, including analogies or allusions to other texts.
Identifies the structure of a text.	Analyzes the structure of a text, including how key concepts are developed.	Analyzes the structure of a specific paragraph in a text, including the role of particular sentences in developing and refining a key concept.	Analyzes the structure of a specific paragraph in a text, including providing a nuanced and detailed description of the role of particular sentences in developing and refining a key concept.
Identifies an author's point of view or purpose in a text.	Determines an author's point of view or purpose by making general observations.	Determines an author's point of view or purpose in a text and analyzes how the author acknowledges and responds to conflicting evidence or viewpoints.	Determines an author's point of view or purpose in a text and provides a detailed and nuanced analysis of how the author acknowledges and responds to conflicting evidence or viewpoints using evidence from the text to support the analysis.

SCANTRON

Alabama Achievement Level Descriptors
Grade 8 – 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	Identifies different mediums that can present a topic or idea.	Describes the advantages and disadvantages of a given medium to present a topic or idea.	Evaluates the advantages and disadvantages of using different mediums to present a particular topic or idea.	Evaluates in depth the advantages and disadvantages of using different mediums to present a particular topic or idea.
	Identifies the main argument in a text and supports it with details from the text.	Delineates the argument and specific claims in a text; determines if the reasoning is sound and the evidence is relevant.	Delineates and evaluates the argument and specific claims in a text, assessing whether the reasoning is sound and the evidence is relevant and sufficient; recognizes when irrelevant evidence is introduced.	Delineates and evaluates the argument and specific claims in a text, precisely assessing whether the reasoning is sound and the evidence is relevant and sufficient; recognizes when subtle irrelevant evidence is introduced.
	Identifies information found in one or more texts on the same topic.	Analyzes information found in one or more texts on the same topic and identifies where some information is in conflict.	Analyzes how two or more texts provide conflicting information on the same topic and identifies where the texts disagree on matters of fact or interpretation.	Analyzes how two or more texts provide conflicting information on the same topic and identifies, using textual evidence, where the texts disagree on matters of fact or interpretation.

SCANTRON

Alabama Achievement Level Descriptors
Grade 8 – 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**
Range of Reading and Level of Text Complexity Reads informational texts at the high end of the Grade 6-8 complexity band with limited comprehension and significant scaffolding.	Reads informational texts at the high end of the Grade 6-8 complexity band with basic comprehension and some scaffolding.	Reads informational texts at the high end of the Grade 6-8 complexity band independently and proficiently with thorough comprehension.	Reads informational texts at the high end of the Grade 6-8 complexity band independently and masterfully with in-depth comprehension.

SCANTRON.