

ISTEP+ Performance Level Descriptors

English/Language Arts – Grade 4

Grade 4

Pass+

Fourth-grade students performing at the *Pass+* level demonstrate advanced understanding when reading, comparing, and responding to a range of grade-level appropriate texts, including literature and nonfiction. Students display advanced writing skills using appropriate Standard English conventions when producing different writing forms.

When reading **literature**, such as fiction and poetry, specific knowledge, skills, and abilities for Grade 4 students scoring at the *Pass +* level include:

- Identify theme and provide evidence for its interpretation;
- Describe characters, settings, or events in a text and how they impact the plot;
- Determine the meaning of figurative language in a text;
- Compare and contrast themes and topics in multiple texts; and
- Compare and contrast point of view in how different stories are narrated.

When reading **nonfiction**, such as articles and excerpts from books, specific knowledge, skills, and abilities for Grade 4 students scoring at the *Pass +* level include:

- Compare and contrast firsthand and secondhand accounts of a topic;
- Explain the relationships between events, procedures, ideas, or concepts;
- Combine information from texts to demonstrate knowledge about a topic; and
- Recognize how claims are used in media, identifying support for claims.

When **writing**, students craft well-organized, clearly focused, and detailed persuasive, informative, and narrative compositions, including a response to a literature or nonfiction text, using varied word choices and appropriate Standard English conventions. Specific knowledge, skills, and abilities for Grade 4 students scoring at the *Pass+* level include:

- Write compositions to describe, explain, and/or persuade, providing specific details to add interest and
- Write focused and detailed compositions containing interesting word choices and effectively organized ideas.

Grade 4

Pass

Fourth-grade students performing at the *Pass* level demonstrate proficient understanding when reading, comparing, and responding to a range of grade-level appropriate texts, including literature and nonfiction. Students display proficient writing skills using mostly appropriate Standard English conventions when producing different writing forms.

When reading **literature**, such as fiction and poetry, specific knowledge, skills, and abilities for Grade 4 students scoring at the *Pass* level include:

- Refer to details and examples from a text when drawing inferences;
- Paraphrase events in a text;
- Identify theme;
- Describe characters, setting, or events, drawing on details in a text;

- Identify differences among genres and refer to structural elements; and
- Determine how language provides meaning to texts.

When reading **nonfiction**, such as articles and excerpts from books, specific knowledge, skills, and abilities for Grade 4 students scoring at the *Pass* level include:

- Refer to details and examples from a text when drawing inferences;
- Determine the main idea in a text and use details to support main ideas;
- Use text features to locate information and understand what is read;
- Describe organizational structure;
- Determine the meaning of unknown words or phrases in a text; and
- Recognize how claims are used in media.

When **writing**, students craft proficient persuasive, informative, and narrative compositions, including a response to a literature or nonfiction text, using varied word choices and mostly appropriate Standard English conventions. Specific knowledge, skills, and abilities for Grade 4 students scoring at the *Pass* level include:

- Write compositions to describe, explain, and/or persuade, providing some details to add interest;
- Determine the reliability of sources; and
- Write focused compositions containing interesting word choices and effectively organized ideas.

Grade 4 Did Not Pass

Fourth-grade students performing at the *Did Not Pass* level demonstrate limited understanding when reading, comparing, and responding to grade-level appropriate texts, including literature and nonfiction. Students display limited writing skills using basic appropriate Standard English conventions when producing different writing forms.

When reading **literature**, such as fiction and poetry, specific knowledge, skills, and abilities for Grade 4 students scoring at the *Did Not Pass* level include:

- Use details and examples to support what a text says explicitly;
- Paraphrase or retell main events in what is read; and
- Describe characters, setting, or events in a text.

When reading **nonfiction**, such as articles and excerpts from books, specific knowledge, skills, and abilities for Grade 4 students scoring at the *Did Not Pass* level include:

- Use details and examples to support what a text says explicitly;
- Determine the main idea in a text; and
- Use text features to locate information.

When **writing**, students demonstrate limited writing skills when producing persuasive, informative, and narrative compositions, including a response to a literature or nonfiction text, using some varied word choices and basic appropriate Standard English conventions. Specific knowledge, skills, and abilities for Grade 4 students scoring at the *Did Not Pass* level include:

- Write for different purposes;
- Identify questions to address when writing; and
- Write compositions containing basic word choices and ideas.