

## ISTAR Grade 8 ELA Performance Level Descriptors (PLDs)

Developing Proficiency	Meeting Proficiency	Exceeding Proficiency
A Developing Proficiency student demonstrates emerging engagement with low-complexity literature and nonfiction text and emerging writing skills.	A Meeting Proficiency student demonstrates proficient engagement with low- to moderately complex literature and nonfiction text, and emerging engagement with highly complex text. He/she displays writing skills in addition to skills defined under Developing Proficiency.	An Exceeding Proficiency student demonstrates exemplary engagement with low- to highly complex literature and nonfiction text. He/she displays writing skills in addition to skills defined under Meeting and Developing Proficiency.
<b>Reading</b>		
<p><b>Text Complexity Definitions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ <b>Low text complexity:</b> brief text with familiar ideas; short, simple sentences; and substantial graphic support</li> <li>❖ <b>Moderate text complexity:</b> longer text with more complex ideas, a mixture of simple and compound sentences, and some graphic support</li> <li>❖ <b>High text complexity:</b> longer text with more complex ideas and textual features, a variety of sentence structures including phrases and transition words, some grade-level or near grade-level vocabulary, and minimal graphic support</li> </ul>		
<p><b>While reading text with a <i>low complexity</i>, a student is able to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• identify specific details and examples in a literature or nonfiction text to explain what the text says explicitly.</li> <li>• identify the central idea in a literature or nonfiction text.</li> <li>• use context to identify the meaning of words.</li> </ul>	<p><b>While reading a text with <i>low to moderate complexity</i>, a student is able to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• use specific details and examples in a literature or nonfiction text to explain what the text says explicitly.</li> <li>• provide a summary of a literature or nonfiction text.</li> <li>• determine the central idea in a literature or nonfiction text.</li> <li>• analyze the development of a central idea of a literature or nonfiction text.</li> <li>• use context to identify the meaning of words or phrases.</li> </ul> <p><b>While reading a text with <i>high complexity</i>, a student is able to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• identify specific details and examples in a literature or nonfiction text to explain what the text says explicitly.</li> <li>• provide a summary of a literature or nonfiction text.</li> <li>• determine the central idea in a literature or nonfiction text.</li> </ul>	<p><b>While reading a text with <i>low to high complexity</i>, a student is able to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• use specific details and examples in a literature or nonfiction text to explain what the text says explicitly.</li> <li>• use specific details and examples in a literature or nonfiction text to support inferences.</li> <li>• provide a summary of a literature or nonfiction text.</li> <li>• determine the central idea in a literature or nonfiction text.</li> <li>• determine the theme in a work of literature.</li> <li>• analyze the development of a theme or central idea of a literature or nonfiction text.</li> <li>• recognize evidence to support a claim or argument in a nonfiction text.</li> <li>• use context to identify the meaning of words or phrases.</li> </ul>
<b>Writing</b>		
<p><b>AND in writing, a student is able to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• make an appropriate word choice in a sentence.</li> <li>• use an appropriate transition word in a sequence of events.</li> </ul>	<p><b>AND in writing, a student is able to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• use appropriate words to make writing more precise or descriptive.</li> </ul>	<p><b>AND in writing, a student is able to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• identify relevant evidence to support a claim.</li> <li>• provide a concluding sentence that follows from and supports the information or explanation presented in a paragraph.</li> </ul>