

ISTEP+ Performance Level Descriptors

English/Language Arts – Grade 5

Grade 5

Pass+

Fifth-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 5 students scoring at the *Pass+* level include:

- Explain how parts of a text contribute to overall structure;
- Describe the impact two or more characters, settings, or events have on the plot; and
- Compare and contrast two stories with similar themes or topics.

When reading **nonfiction**, such as historical or scientific texts and articles, specific knowledge, skills, and abilities for Grade 5 students scoring at the *Pass+* level include:

- Explain the relationship between two or more events, ideas, or concepts in a text;
- Compare and contrast organizational structures of texts;
- Explain how an author supports claims in a text, identifying which evidence supports which claims; and
- Analyze multiple accounts of the same topic.

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 5 students scoring at the *Pass+* level include:

- Write compositions to describe, explain, and/or persuade, providing well-developed details and facts that connect to the purpose;
- Use language, words, and tone appropriate to the audience and purpose; and
- Write focused and detailed compositions containing interesting word choices, effectively organized ideas, and well-developed thoughts.

Grade 5

Pass

Fifth-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 5 students scoring at the *Pass* level include:

- Quote text to explain and interpret explicit and inferred ideas in what is read;
- Summarize text;
- Determine theme based on details in a text;
- Determine how words and phrases provide meaning to a text;

- Understand how the point of view in a text influences meaning; and
- Compare and contrast two stories with similar themes or topics.

When reading **nonfiction**, such as historical or scientific texts and articles, specific knowledge, skills, and abilities for Grade 5 students scoring at the *Pass* level include:

- Quote text to explain and interpret explicit and inferred ideas in what is read;
- Determine two or more main ideas and explain how they are supported in text;
- Determine the meaning of words in text;
- Explain an author's use of evidence to support claims; and
- Explain claims in various media sources.

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 5 students scoring at the *Pass* level include:

- Write compositions to describe, explain, and/or persuade, providing details and facts that connect to the purpose;
- Use language, words, and tone mostly appropriate to the audience and purpose;
- Identify information in reliable sources; and
- Write focused and detailed compositions containing interesting word choices and organized ideas.

Grade 5 Did Not Pass

Fifth-grade students performing at the *Did Not Pass* level demonstrate limited understanding when reading, comparing, and responding to a range of 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 5 students scoring at the *Did Not Pass* level include:

- Quote text to explain explicit ideas in what is read;
- Determine theme based on details in text;
- Describe characters, settings, or events; and
- Use context to determine the meaning of words in text.

When reading **nonfiction**, such as historical or scientific texts and articles, specific knowledge, skills, and abilities for Grade 5 students scoring at the *Did Not Pass* level include:

- Quote text to explain explicit ideas in what is read;
- Apply knowledge of text features to locate information and gain meaning; and
- Use context to determine the meaning of words in text.

When **writing**, students craft limited persuasive, informative, and narrative compositions, including a response to a literature or nonfiction text, using varied word choices and basic appropriate Standard English conventions. Specific knowledge, skills, and abilities for Grade 5 students scoring at the *Did Not Pass* level include:

- Write compositions to describe, explain, and/or persuade, providing minimal details and facts;
- Use language, words, and tone minimally appropriate to the audience and purpose; and
- Write compositions containing basic word choices and ideas.