

ISTEP+ Performance Level Descriptors

English/Language Arts – Grade 6

Grade 6

Pass+

Sixth-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 6 students scoring at the *Pass+* level include:

- Analyze how a section of text fits into the overall structure and contributes to the development of theme, characterization, setting, or plot and
- Explain how the point of view is developed and its influence on mood, tone, and meaning in a text.

When reading **nonfiction**, such as historical or scientific texts and articles, specific knowledge, skills, and abilities for Grade 6 students scoring at the *Pass+* level include:

- Analyze how key individuals, events, or ideas are introduced and elaborated on in text;
- Analyze how parts of text contribute to the overall organizational structures of a text;
- Compare and contrast two author's presentations of similar events; and
- Distinguish claims that the author supports from claims that are not supported.

When **writing**, students craft well-organized, clearly focused, and detailed argumentative, 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 6 students scoring at the *Pass+* level include:

- Write compositions to describe, explain, and/or convince, providing details and facts that connect to the purpose;
- Use precise words, phrases, and sensory language appropriate to the audience and purpose;
- Write focused and detailed compositions containing interesting word choices, effectively organized ideas, and well-developed thoughts; and
- Compare and contrast different forms or genres of literature with similar themes or topics.

Grade 6

Pass

Sixth-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 6 students scoring at the *Pass* level include:

- Cite textual evidence to support analysis of explicit and inferred ideas in what is read;
- Determine how a theme or central idea is conveyed through particular details;
- Describe how the plot unfolds in a text, including how characters respond or change moving toward the resolution;
- Explain how the narrator or point of view in a text is developed; and
- Analyze the impact of specific word choice on meaning and tone.

When reading **nonfiction**, such as historical or scientific texts and articles, specific knowledge, skills, and abilities for Grade 6 students scoring at the *Pass* level include:

- Cite textual evidence to support analysis of explicit and inferred ideas in what is read;
- Determine how a central idea is conveyed through particular details;
- Analyze how key individuals, events, or ideas are introduced and elaborated on in a text;
- Analyze how an author structures a text;
- Determine an author's perspective or purpose and explain how it is conveyed in the text; and
- Evaluate the accuracy of information in media messages and identify the audience.

When **writing**, students craft proficient argumentative, 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 6 students scoring at the *Pass* level include:

- Write compositions to describe, explain, and/or convince, providing details and facts that connect to the purpose;
- Write to a specific audience and purpose;
- Assess the credibility of sources;
- Write focused and detailed compositions containing some interesting word choices, effectively organized ideas, and developed thoughts.

Grade 6 Did Not Pass

Sixth-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 6 students scoring at the *Did Not Pass* level include:

- Cite textual evidence to support analysis of explicit ideas in what is read;
- Summarize text; and
- Determine the meaning of words and phrases as used in a text.

When reading **nonfiction**, such as historical or scientific texts and articles, specific knowledge, skills, and abilities for Grade 6 students scoring at the *Did Not Pass* level include:

- Cite textual evidence to support analysis of explicit ideas in what is read;
- Determine an author's perspective or purpose;
- Determine the meaning of words and phrases as used in a text; and
- Identify the audience in media messaging.

When **writing**, students craft limited argumentative, 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 6 students scoring at the *Did Not Pass* level include:

- Write compositions to describe, explain, and/or convince, providing minimal details and facts;
- Use some language appropriate to the audience and purpose;
- Gather relevant information from sources; and
- Write compositions containing some interesting word choices and ideas.