

ISTEP+ Performance Level Descriptors

English/Language Arts – Grade 7

Grade 7

Pass+

Seventh-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 7 students scoring at the *Pass+* level include:

- Analyze interactions of various elements in a text and how they contribute to its meaning;
- Analyze how the author develops and contrasts points of view of characters or narrators in a text; and
- Compare and contrast a fictional portrayal and a historical account of the same period.

When reading **nonfiction**, such as historical or scientific texts and articles, specific knowledge, skills, and abilities for Grade 7 students scoring at the *Pass+* level include:

- Analyze interactions between individuals, events, and ideas in text;
- Analyze how the author distinguishes his or her position from the positions of others;
- Assess whether an argument is sound and evidence is relevant and sufficient to support claims; and
- Analyze how two or more authors writing about the same topic shape the presentation of key information.

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

- Write compositions to describe, explain, and/or argue, developing multiple, relevant details and facts that connect to the purpose;
- Use precise words, phrases, sensory language, and content vocabulary appropriate to the audience and purpose; and
- Write focused and detailed paragraphs and compositions containing interesting word choices, effectively organized ideas, well-developed thoughts, and cohesiveness.

Grade 7

Pass

Seventh-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 7 students scoring at the *Pass* level include:

- Cite textual evidence to support analysis of inferences drawn from a text;
- Analyze the development of a theme or central idea over the course of a work of literature;
- Analyze the interactions of various elements in a text; and
- Analyze how structural elements contribute to meaning and plot.

When reading **nonfiction**, such as historical or scientific texts and articles, specific knowledge, skills, and abilities for Grade 7 students scoring at the *Pass* level include:

- Cite textual evidence to support analysis of inferences drawn from a text;
- Analyze the development of two or more central ideas over the course of a text;
- Analyze a text's structure, including how major sections contribute to the development of ideas;
- Determine an author's perspective or purpose;
- Trace and evaluate an argument and specific claims in a text;
- Analyze the impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone; and
- Identify information in media messaging that can influence 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 7 students scoring at the *Pass* level include:

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

Grade 7 Did Not Pass

Seventh-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 7 students scoring at the *Did Not Pass* level include:

- Cite textual evidence to support analysis of what a text says explicitly;
- Summarize text to support analysis; and
- Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text.

When reading **nonfiction**, such as historical or scientific texts and articles, specific knowledge, skills, and abilities for Grade 7 students scoring at the *Did Not Pass* level include:

- Cite textual evidence to support analysis of what a text says explicitly;
- Provide a summary of a text; and
- Determine the meaning of words or phrases used in a text.

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 7 students scoring at the *Did Not Pass* level include:

- Write compositions to describe, explain, and/or argue, providing minimal details and facts that connect to the purpose;
- Use some language appropriate to the audience and purpose; and
- Write compositions containing some interesting word choices, organized ideas, and minimally developed thoughts.