
PASA – ELA (READING)
TIER 1
PERFORMANCE LEVEL
DESCRIPTORS

GRADE 3 – TIER 1 – EMERGING

A third grade Tier 1 student performing at the *Emerging* Level demonstrates a preliminary academic awareness of the knowledge, skills, and processes outlined by the Pennsylvania Alternate Eligible Content.

Students performing at this level demonstrate these abilities by

- ✓ identifying the meaning of a familiar word or phrase with support,
- ✓ answering simple literal questions with support and guidance.

GRADE 3 – TIER 1 – NOVICE

A third grade Tier 1 student performing at the *Novice* Level demonstrates a limited academic awareness of the knowledge, skills, and processes outlined by the Pennsylvania Alternate Eligible Content.

In addition to the skills demonstrated by students performing at the *Emerging* level, students performing at this level demonstrate these abilities by

- ✓ identifying one clearly stated event in the text with support,
- ✓ identifying the meaning of common words using root word meaning,
- ✓ answering literal questions with support.

GRADE 3 – TIER 1 – PROFICIENT

A third grade Tier 1 student performing at the *Proficient* Level demonstrates a developing academic awareness of the knowledge, skills, and processes outlined by the Pennsylvania Alternate Eligible Content.

In addition to the skills demonstrated by students performing at the *Novice* Level, students performing at this level demonstrate these abilities by

- ✓ identifying one key fact to answer literal questions,
- ✓ identifying the main idea explicitly stated in the text,
- ✓ identifying one action of a central character,
- ✓ identifying the meaning of common vocabulary words, including those with multiple meanings,
- ✓ answering literal questions.

GRADE 3 – TIER 1 – ADVANCED

A third grade Tier 1 student performing at the *Advanced* Level demonstrates a progressing academic awareness of the knowledge, skills, and processes outlined by the Pennsylvania Alternate Eligible Content.

In addition to the skills demonstrated by students performing at the *Proficient* Level, students performing at this level demonstrate these abilities by

- ✓ identifying one or more explicitly stated key details to answer questions,
- ✓ identifying the literal and non-literal meaning of less common words, including those with multiple meanings,
- ✓ generating a question about the text with support,
- ✓ identifying basic similarities or differences between 2 pieces of text,
- ✓ retelling stories with support,
- ✓ identifying which character is telling the story with support,
- ✓ identifying the feature that links 2 events in the story,
- ✓ identifying one general point of view in a text with support.

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GRADE 4 – TIER 1 – EMERGING

A fourth grade Tier 1 student performing at the *Emerging* Level demonstrates a preliminary academic awareness of the knowledge, skills, and processes outlined by the Pennsylvania Alternate Eligible Content.

Students performing at this level demonstrate these abilities by,

- ✓ identifying any detail or event from the story with support,
- ✓ identifying the meaning of common words and phrases with support,
- ✓ answering basic literal questions with support.

GRADE 4 – TIER 1 – NOVICE

A fourth grade Tier 1 student performing at the *Novice* Level demonstrates a limited academic awareness of the knowledge, skills, and processes outlined by the Pennsylvania Alternate Eligible Content.

In addition to the skills demonstrated by students performing at the *Emerging* level, students performing at this level demonstrate these abilities by

- ✓ identifying a clearly stated main idea in a text with support,
- ✓ identifying one detail within the text that supports a point explicitly made in the text,
- ✓ identifying the meaning of commonly encountered words using context or using prefixes and root words.

GRADE 4 – TIER 1 – PROFICIENT

A fourth grade Tier 1 student performing at the *Proficient* Level demonstrates a developing academic awareness of the knowledge, skills, and processes outlined by the Pennsylvania Alternate Eligible Content.

In addition to the skills demonstrated by students performing at the *Novice* Level, students performing at this level demonstrate these abilities by

- ✓ identifying one or more details to answer questions about a character,
- ✓ answering literal questions,
- ✓ identifying a simplified theme or central message in a text.

GRADE 4 – TIER 1 – ADVANCED

A fourth grade Tier 1 student performing at the *Advanced* Level demonstrates a progressing academic awareness of the knowledge, skills, and processes outlined by the Pennsylvania Alternate Eligible Content.

In addition to the skills demonstrated by students performing at the *Proficient* Level, students performing at this level demonstrate these abilities by

- ✓ identifying one or more details to answer questions about events, characters, concepts or steps in a text,
- ✓ answering basic inferential questions,
- ✓ identifying one detail from 2 different texts about the same topic,
- ✓ identifying text structures or features in a text.

GRADE 5 – TIER 1 – EMERGING

A fifth grade Tier 1 student performing at the *Emerging* Level demonstrates a preliminary academic awareness of the knowledge, skills, and processes outlined by the Pennsylvania Alternate Eligible Content.

Students performing at this level demonstrate these abilities by

- ✓ locating a key detail with support,
- ✓ identifying the meaning of common words or phrases with support using context,
- ✓ answering basic literal questions with support.

GRADE 5 – TIER 1 – NOVICE

A fifth grade Tier 1 student performing at the *Novice* Level demonstrates a limited academic awareness of the knowledge, skills, and processes outlined by the Pennsylvania Alternate Eligible Content.

In addition to the skills demonstrated by students performing at the *Emerging* level, students performing at this level demonstrate these abilities by

- ✓ identifying the meaning of common figurative language,
- ✓ identifying the meaning of familiar words, including those with multiple meanings, using context, or prefixes, suffixes and roots,
- ✓ identifying one or more key details,
- ✓ answering basic literal questions.

GRADE 5 – TIER 1 – PROFICIENT

A fifth grade Tier 1 student performing at the *Proficient* Level demonstrates a developing academic awareness of the knowledge, skills, and processes outlined by the Pennsylvania Alternate Eligible Content.

In addition to the skills demonstrated by students performing at the *Novice* Level, students performing at this level demonstrate these abilities by

- ✓ identifying the author's point of view,
- ✓ identifying one piece of evidence that shows how the author feels,
- ✓ identifying the main idea and one key detail to support the main idea,
- ✓ answering inferential questions with support,
- ✓ identifying how an individual or action affected an subsequent event in the text.

GRADE 5 – TIER 1 – ADVANCED

A fifth grade Tier 1 student performing at the *Advanced* Level demonstrates a progressing academic awareness of the knowledge, skills, and processes outlined by the Pennsylvania Alternate Eligible Content.

In addition to the skills demonstrated by students performing at the *Proficient* Level, students performing at this level demonstrate these abilities by

- ✓ identifying one or more details that support an inference,
- ✓ identifying the author's purpose,
- ✓ answering literal and inferential questions,
- ✓ identifying the theme or central message of a text,
- ✓ summarizing a text including appropriate sequencing of events,
- ✓ identifying details to compare characters, settings, or events.

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GRADE 6 – TIER 1 – EMERGING

A sixth grade Tier 1 student performing at the *Emerging* Level demonstrates a preliminary academic awareness of the knowledge, skills, and processes outlined by the Pennsylvania Alternate Eligible Content.

Students performing at this level demonstrate these abilities by

- ✓ locating key details,
- ✓ identifying the meaning of simple words and phrases with support using context,
- ✓ answering literal questions with support.

GRADE 6 – TIER 1 – NOVICE

A sixth grade Tier 1 student performing at the *Novice* Level demonstrates a limited academic awareness of the knowledge, skills, and processes outlined by the Pennsylvania Alternate Eligible Content.

In addition to the skills demonstrated by students performing at the *Emerging* level, students performing at this level demonstrate these abilities by

- ✓ identifying a main idea with support,
- ✓ identifying key details to support answer to a literal question,
- ✓ identifying the meaning of common vocabulary and multiple meaning words,
- ✓ answering literal questions (e.g., how, why) with support.

GRADE 6 – TIER 1 – PROFICIENT

A sixth grade Tier 1 student performing at the *Proficient* Level demonstrates a developing academic awareness of the knowledge, skills, and processes outlined by the Pennsylvania Alternate Eligible Content.

In addition to the skills demonstrated by students performing at the *Novice* Level, students performing at this level demonstrate these abilities by

- ✓ identifying the primary theme in a text,
- ✓ identifying one claim or an argument made by the author,
- ✓ identifying key details to answer inferential questions,
- ✓ identifying the meaning of words using root words and affixes or using context,
- ✓ answering inferential questions.

GRADE 6 – TIER 1 – ADVANCED

A sixth grade Tier 1 student performing at the *Advanced* Level demonstrates a progressing academic awareness of the knowledge, skills, and processes outlined by the Pennsylvania Alternate Eligible Content.

In addition to the skills demonstrated by students performing at the *Proficient* Level, students performing at this level demonstrate these abilities by

- ✓ distinguishing whether a statement from the text is fact or opinion,
- ✓ summarizing a text by sequencing the major events,
- ✓ identifying the relationship (e.g., cause/effect) between events/characters in a text,
- ✓ identifying general similarities and differences in 2 texts from different genres
- ✓ locating words and phrases which highlight the author's point-of-view,
- ✓ determining how a text feature supports text structure,
- ✓ determining how word choice changes the meaning of a text,
- ✓ identifying similarities and differences in texts by different authors.

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GRADE 7 – TIER 1 – EMERGING

A seventh grade Tier 1 student performing at the *Emerging* Level demonstrates a preliminary academic awareness of the knowledge, skills, and processes outlined by the Pennsylvania Alternate Eligible Content.

Students performing at this level demonstrate these abilities by

- ✓ identifying one explicitly stated theme or central message,
- ✓ identifying the meaning of simple words and phrases with support using context,
- ✓ answering literal questions with support.

GRADE 7 – TIER 1 – NOVICE

A seventh grade Tier 1 student performing at the *Novice* Level demonstrates a limited academic awareness of the knowledge, skills, and processes outlined by the Pennsylvania Alternate Eligible Content.

In addition to the skills demonstrated by students performing at the *Emerging* level, students performing at this level demonstrate these abilities by

- ✓ identifying a claim or an argument made by the author,
- ✓ identifying a key detail,
- ✓ identifying the meaning of words and phrases including multiple meaning words using context, and/or prefixes, suffixes and root words,
- ✓ answering literal questions.

GRADE 7 – TIER 1 – PROFICIENT

A seventh grade Tier 1 student performing at the *Proficient* Level demonstrates a developing academic awareness of the knowledge, skills, and processes outlined by the Pennsylvania Alternate Eligible Content.

In addition to the skills demonstrated by students performing at the *Novice* Level, students performing at this level demonstrate these abilities by

- ✓ using evidence from the text to identify the main and/or central idea,
- ✓ summarize a text relaying each major event in order,
- ✓ recognize the author's point or view and an alternate point of view in the text,
- ✓ identifying how text features or sections influence text structure.

GRADE 7 – TIER 1 – ADVANCED

A seventh grade Tier 1 student performing at the *Advanced* Level demonstrates a progressing academic awareness of the knowledge, skills, and processes outlined by the Pennsylvania Alternate Eligible Content.

In addition to the skills demonstrated by students performing at the *Proficient* Level, students performing at this level demonstrate these abilities by

- ✓ identifying the meaning of figurative language,
- ✓ answering literal and inferential questions using details and evidence from the text,
- ✓ identifying relationships between story elements,
- ✓ identifying how 2 or more characters think or feel,
- ✓ identifying how interchanging 2 words impacts comprehension the text,
- ✓ identifying similarities in a historical account and a fictional account of the same time,

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- ✓ identifying interactions between individuals, events or ideas that contribute to the plot of a story.

GRADE 8 – TIER 1 – EMERGING

An eighth grade Tier 1 student performing at the *Emerging* Level demonstrates a preliminary academic awareness of the knowledge, skills, and processes outlined by the Pennsylvania Alternate Eligible Content.

Students performing at this level demonstrate these abilities by

- ✓ identifying a theme and a supporting detail with support,
- ✓ identifying the meaning of simple words or phrases using context or prefix/root words,
- ✓ answering literal or inferential questions with support.

GRADE 8 – TIER 1 – NOVICE

An eighth grade Tier 1 student performing at the *Novice* Level demonstrates a limited academic awareness of the knowledge, skills, and processes outlined by the Pennsylvania Alternate Eligible Content.

In addition to the skills demonstrated by students performing at the *Emerging* level, students performing at this level demonstrate these abilities by

- ✓ identifying the main/central idea or the claim/argument made by the author,
- ✓ identifying two key details to support summary of text,
- ✓ identifying the meaning of words and phrases, including those with multiple meanings, using context and/or prefixes, suffixes and roots,
- ✓ answering literal and inferential questions.

GRADE 8 – TIER 1 – PROFICIENT

An eighth grade Tier 1 student performing at the *Proficient* Level demonstrates a developing academic awareness of the knowledge, skills, and processes outlined by the Pennsylvania Alternate Eligible Content.

In addition to the skills demonstrated by students performing at the *Novice* Level, students performing at this level demonstrate these abilities by

- ✓ determining if evidence supports a claim/argument made by the author,
- ✓ identifying up to three key details and summarize text,
- ✓ identifying the meaning of multiple-meaning words and figurative language, including idioms metaphors or similes,
- ✓ identifying similarities in two texts about the same topic written in 2 different time frames,
- ✓ identifying how one character's actions affect the reader's perceptions,
- ✓ identifying the basic parts of a paragraph (introduction, details, conclusion).

GRADE 8 – TIER 1 – ADVANCED

An eighth grade Tier 1 student performing at the *Advanced* Level demonstrates a progressing academic awareness of the knowledge, skills, and processes outlined by the Pennsylvania Alternate Eligible Content.

In addition to the skills demonstrated by students performing at the *Proficient* Level, students performing at this level demonstrate these abilities by

- ✓ determining the connection between 2 or more elements in the text,
- ✓ determining the author's point of view and a competing point of view,
- ✓ determining how 2 characters in the story make the reader respond differently,

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- ✓ identifying one discrepancy in information presented in 2 texts about the same topic.

GRADE 11 – TIER 1 – EMERGING

An eleventh grade Tier 1 student performing at the *Emerging* Level demonstrates a preliminary academic awareness of the knowledge, skills, and processes outlined by the Pennsylvania Alternate Eligible Content.

Students performing at this level demonstrate these abilities by

- ✓ identifying the meaning of simple, multiple-meaning words and phrases,
- ✓ answering simple literal or inferential questions using key details or evidence.

GRADE 11 – TIER 1 – NOVICE

An eleventh grade Tier 1 student performing at the *Novice* Level demonstrates a limited academic awareness of the knowledge, skills, and processes outlined by the Pennsylvania Alternate Eligible Content.

In addition to the skills demonstrated by students performing at the *Emerging* level, students performing at this level demonstrate these abilities by

- ✓ identifying two main and/or central ideas in the text,
- ✓ identifying the most important details to summarize a text,
- ✓ identifying the meaning of common words or phrases using context and/or word parts.

GRADE 11 – TIER 1 – PROFICIENT

An eleventh grade Tier 1 student performing at the *Proficient* Level demonstrates a developing academic awareness of the knowledge, skills, and processes outlined by the Pennsylvania Alternate Eligible Content.

In addition to the skills demonstrated by students performing at the *Novice* Level, students performing at this level demonstrate these abilities by

- ✓ identifying a claim/argument made by the author and supporting evidence,
- ✓ identifying the author's point of view and citing examples and supporting evidence,
- ✓ identifying a summary statement about the text and citing evidence to support it,
- ✓ using informational material to answer an application question.

GRADE 11 – TIER 1 – ADVANCED

An eleventh grade Tier 1 student performing at the *Advanced* Level demonstrates a progressing academic awareness of the knowledge, skills, and processes outlined by the Pennsylvania Alternate Eligible Content.

In addition to the skills demonstrated by students performing at the *Proficient* Level, students performing at this level demonstrate these abilities by

- ✓ categorizing evidence or examples that do or do not support an author's point of view,
- ✓ defining vocabulary used in content area studies or in employment,
- ✓ identifying major ideas reflected in historical or political documents.

PASA – ELA (READING)
TIER 2
PERFORMANCE LEVEL
DESCRIPTORS

GRADE 3 – TIER 2 – EMERGING

A third grade Tier 2 student performing at the *Emerging* Level demonstrates a progressing academic awareness of the knowledge, skills, and processes outlined by the Pennsylvania Alternate Eligible Content.

Students performing at this level demonstrate these abilities by

- ✓ identifying one key idea explicitly stated in text,
- ✓ identifying the meaning of simple words and phrases,
- ✓ answering basic literal questions with support.

GRADE 3 – TIER 2 – NOVICE

A third grade Tier 1 student performing at the *Novice* Level demonstrates a limited academic awareness of the knowledge, skills, and processes outlined by the Pennsylvania Alternate Eligible Content.

In addition to the skills demonstrated by students performing at the *Emerging* level, students performing at this level demonstrate these abilities by

- ✓ identifying the central message or main idea directly stated in the text,
- ✓ identifying the meaning of words using common prefixes, suffixes or roots,
- ✓ identifying the meaning of familiar phrases in context,
- ✓ answering more complex literal comprehension questions (e.g., why) with support.

GRADE 3 – TIER 2 – PROFICIENT

A third grade Tier 1 student performing at the *Proficient* Level demonstrates a developing academic awareness of the knowledge, skills, and processes outlined by the Pennsylvania Alternate Eligible Content.

In addition to the skills demonstrated by students performing at the *Novice* Level, students performing at this level demonstrate these abilities by

- ✓ retelling events in order, including the first and last event,
- ✓ identifying one key detail to support an answer to a literal question,
- ✓ identifying a specific action of a character,
- ✓ identifying the literal and non-literal meaning of words, including those with multiple meanings using context,
- ✓ generating a question about the text,
- ✓ identifying similarities between 2 pieces of text by the same author or on the same topic.

GRADE 3 – TIER 2 – ADVANCED

A third grade Tier 1 student performing at the *Advanced* Level demonstrates a progressing academic awareness of the knowledge, skills, and processes outlined by the Pennsylvania Alternate Eligible Content.

In addition to the skills demonstrated by students performing at the *Proficient* Level, students performing at this level demonstrate these abilities by

- ✓ ordering and retelling three or more events,
- ✓ identify two or more key details to support an answer to a question,
- ✓ identifying one specific point of view in the text,
- ✓ identifying evidence that supports a connection between 2 points in the text.

GRADE 4 – TIER 2 – EMERGING

A fourth grade Tier 2 student performing at the *Emerging* Level demonstrates a progressing academic awareness of the knowledge, skills, and processes outlined by the Pennsylvania Alternate Eligible Content.

Students performing at this level demonstrate these abilities by

- ✓ identifying one or more key events in the text,
- ✓ identifying one detail to answer a question,
- ✓ identifying the meaning of simple words and phrases using context or word parts,
- ✓ answering basic literal questions.

GRADE 4 – TIER 2 – NOVICE

A fourth grade Tier 2 student performing at the *Novice* Level demonstrates a developing academic awareness of the knowledge, skills, and processes outlined by the Pennsylvania Alternate Eligible Content.

In addition to the skills demonstrated by students performing at the *Emerging* level, students performing at this level demonstrate these abilities by

- ✓ identifying a simplified central message or main idea,
- ✓ identifying the first or last event in a sequence,
- ✓ identifying the meaning of simple words and phrases, both literal and non-literal with support,
- ✓ answering basic inferential questions.

GRADE 4 – TIER 2 – PROFICIENT

A fourth grade Tier 2 student performing at the *Proficient* Level demonstrates an essential academic awareness of the knowledge, skills, and processes outlined by the Pennsylvania Alternate Eligible Content.

In addition to the skills demonstrated by students performing at the *Novice* Level, students performing at this level demonstrate these abilities by

- ✓ identifying one or more details to answer questions about setting, characters or events,
- ✓ identifying the main idea and key details that support the concept,
- ✓ summarizing the text by ordering and retelling basic events, including the first and last event,
- ✓ identifying the literal and non-literal meaning of less familiar words and phrases using context, and/or prefixes, suffixes and roots,
- ✓ identifying who the narrator of a text is,
- ✓ answering literal and inferential questions.

GRADE 4 – TIER 2 – ADVANCED

A fourth grade Tier 2 student performing at the *Advanced* Level demonstrates a consistent academic awareness of the knowledge, skills, and processes outlined by the Pennsylvania Alternate Eligible Content.

In addition to the skills demonstrated by students performing at the *Proficient* Level, students performing at this level demonstrate these abilities by

- ✓ identifying at least one piece of information to support answer to inferential question,

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- ✓ identifying one or more details to answer questions about events, characters, procedures, ideas, steps or concepts,
 - ✓ combining information from 2 pieces of texts on the same topic,
 - ✓ determining narrator in 2 different stories.

GRADE 5 – TIER 2 – EMERGING

A fifth grade Tier 2 student performing at the *Emerging* Level demonstrates a progressing academic awareness of the knowledge, skills, and processes outlined by the Pennsylvania Alternate Eligible Content.

Students performing at this level demonstrate these abilities by

- ✓ identifying one or more key details in the text to support the answer to a question,
- ✓ identifying the meaning of simple words and phrases using context,
- ✓ answering basic literal or inferential questions.

GRADE 5 – TIER 2 – NOVICE

A fifth grade Tier 2 student performing at the *Novice* Level demonstrates a developing academic awareness of the knowledge, skills, and processes outlined by the Pennsylvania Alternate Eligible Content.

In addition to the skills demonstrated by students performing at the *Emerging* level, students performing at this level demonstrate these abilities by

- ✓ identifying a simply stated theme and/or main idea,
- ✓ identifying the meaning of words and phrases, including those with multiple meanings, using, context and/or prefixes, suffixes and roots,
- ✓ identifying the relationship between 2 people in a text,
- ✓ identifying text features to identify events, ideas or concepts.

GRADE 5 – TIER 2 – PROFICIENT

A fifth grade Tier 2 student performing at the *Proficient* Level demonstrates an essential academic awareness of the knowledge, skills, and processes outlined by the Pennsylvania Alternate Eligible Content.

In addition to the skills demonstrated by students performing at the *Novice* Level, students performing at this level demonstrate these abilities by

- ✓ identifying the author’s point of view with supporting evidence,
- ✓ determining the main idea and two or more supporting details,
- ✓ identifying the meaning of figurative language such as similes, metaphors or idioms,
- ✓ summarizing the text, including all major events in sequence.

GRADE 5 – TIER 2 – ADVANCED

A fifth grade Tier 2 student performing at the *Advanced* Level demonstrates a consistent academic awareness of the knowledge, skills, and processes outlined by the Pennsylvania Alternate Eligible Content.

In addition to the skills demonstrated by students performing at the *Proficient* Level, students performing at this level demonstrate these abilities by

- ✓ combining details from two different sources of text,,
- ✓ identifying similarities and differences in 2 texts of the same genre
- ✓ identifying similarities and differences in two points-of-view about an event or topic.

GRADE 6 – TIER 2 – EMERGING

A sixth grade Tier 2 student performing at the *Emerging* Level demonstrates a progressing academic awareness of the knowledge, skills, and processes outlined by the Pennsylvania Alternate Eligible Content.

Students performing at this level demonstrate these abilities by

- ✓ identifying key details to answer literal questions,
- ✓ identifying the meaning of simple words and phrases using context,
- ✓ answering literal questions.

GRADE 6 – TIER 2 – NOVICE

A sixth grade Tier 2 student performing at the *Novice* Level demonstrates a developing academic awareness of the knowledge, skills, and processes outlined by the Pennsylvania Alternate Eligible Content.

In addition to the skills demonstrated by students performing at the *Emerging* level, students performing at this level demonstrate these abilities by

- ✓ identifying the main idea of a text,
- ✓ identifying key details to answer basic inferential questions,
- ✓ identifying the meaning of basic vocabulary and multiple meaning words
- ✓ answering basic inferential questions.

GRADE 6 – TIER 2 – PROFICIENT

A sixth grade Tier 2 student performing at the *Proficient* Level demonstrates an essential academic awareness of the knowledge, skills, and processes outlined by the Pennsylvania Alternate Eligible Content.

In addition to the skills demonstrated by students performing at the *Novice* Level, students performing at this level demonstrate these abilities by

- ✓ identifying an author's claim or an argument using evidence from the text,
- ✓ summarizing a text, relaying key elements in order,
- ✓ identifying impact between events and characters or actions and events in a text,
- ✓ determining how specific words and phrases support an author's feelings,
- ✓ identifying how text features impact text structure,
- ✓ identifying the meaning of figurative language such as common similes, metaphors or idioms,
- ✓ comparing similarities and differences in 2 authors' approaches to one topic.

GRADE 6 – TIER 2 – ADVANCED

A sixth grade Tier 2 student performing at the *Advanced* Level demonstrates a consistent academic awareness of the knowledge, skills, and processes outlined by the Pennsylvania Alternate Eligible Content.

In addition to the skills demonstrated by students performing at the *Proficient* Level, students performing at this level demonstrate these abilities by

- ✓ categorizing evidence as fact or opinion,
- ✓ identifying the meaning of more complex, less familiar figurative language,
- ✓ determining an author's point of view and finding details that support this point of view,

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- ✓ determining how word choice changes the feeling of the text,
 - ✓ identifying specific similarities and differences in 2 texts from different genres.

GRADE 7 – TIER 2 – EMERGING

A seventh grade Tier 2 student performing at the *Emerging* Level demonstrates a progressing academic awareness of the knowledge, skills, and processes outlined by the Pennsylvania Alternate Eligible Content.

Students performing at this level demonstrate these abilities by

- ✓ identifying the basic theme or central message,
- ✓ identifying the meaning of common words and phrases using context,
- ✓ answering literal questions.

GRADE 7 – TIER 2 – NOVICE

A seventh grade Tier 2 student performing at the *Novice* Level demonstrates a developing academic awareness of the knowledge, skills, and processes outlined by the Pennsylvania Alternate Eligible Content.

In addition to the skills demonstrated by students performing at the *Emerging* level, students performing at this level demonstrate these abilities by

- ✓ identifying the primary claim/argument made by the author,
- ✓ identifying key details to summarize a text,
- ✓ identifying the meaning of common words and phrases using context and/or prefixes, suffixes and roots,
- ✓ identifying the author’s point of view and an alternate point of view in a text,
- ✓ identifying how 2 or more text features fit into text structure,
- ✓ answering basic inferential questions.

GRADE 7 – TIER 2 – PROFICIENT

A seventh grade Tier 2 student performing at the *Proficient* Level demonstrates an essential academic awareness of the knowledge, skills, and processes outlined by the Pennsylvania Alternate Eligible Content.

In addition to the skills demonstrated by students performing at the *Novice* Level, students performing at this level demonstrate these abilities by

- ✓ identifying the meaning of multiple-meaning words and figurative language,
- ✓ identifying two central themes or main ideas,
- ✓ identifying similarities and differences in how 2 or more characters think or feel,
- ✓ identifying how word choice can impact comprehension,
- ✓ identifying how 2 interactions between individuals, events, or ideas, contribute to the plot.

GRADE 7 – TIER 2 – ADVANCED

A seventh grade Tier 2 student performing at the *Advanced* Level demonstrates a consistent academic awareness of the knowledge, skills, and processes outlined by the Pennsylvania Alternate Eligible Content.

In addition to the skills demonstrated by students performing at the *Proficient* Level, students performing at this level demonstrate these abilities by

- ✓ answering literal and inferential questions and supporting choices by citing details and evidence from the text,
- ✓ identifying the relationship between multiple story elements,

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- ✓ identifying similarities and differences in a fictional portrayal and a historical account of the same period,
 - ✓ using context to infer meaning of an unknown word.

GRADE 8 – TIER 2 – EMERGING

An eighth grade Tier 2 student performing at the *Emerging* Level demonstrates a progressing academic awareness of the knowledge, skills, and processes outlined by the Pennsylvania Alternate Eligible Content.

Students performing at this level demonstrate these abilities by

- ✓ determining the central message of a text and one piece of evidence to support it,
- ✓ identifying the meaning of words, including those with multiple meanings,
- ✓ locating one piece of evidence in the text to support answer to literal or inferential questions.

GRADE 8 – TIER 2 – NOVICE

An eighth grade Tier 2 student performing at the *Novice* Level demonstrates a developing academic awareness of the knowledge, skills, and processes outlined by the Pennsylvania Alternate Eligible Content.

In addition to the skills demonstrated by students performing at the *Emerging* level, students performing at this level demonstrate these abilities by

- ✓ identifying a main/central idea or claim/argument made by the author using details from the text,
- ✓ identifying the meaning of words and phrases, including those with multiple meanings, using context and/or prefixes, suffixes and roots,
- ✓ identifying how different characters' actions impact other characters and events,
- ✓ summarizing text with some details,
- ✓ citing evidence to answer literal and inferential questions.

GRADE 8 – TIER 2 – PROFICIENT

An eighth grade Tier 2 student performing at the *Proficient* Level demonstrates an essential academic awareness of the knowledge, skills, and processes outlined by the Pennsylvania Alternate Eligible Content.

In addition to the skills demonstrated by students performing at the *Novice* Level, students performing at this level demonstrate these abilities by

- ✓ determining which evidence supports and does not support a claim/argument made by the author,
- ✓ identifying similarities and differences in a modern work of fiction and a traditional story addressing the same theme,
- ✓ determining how a character's actions and attitude affect the reader's perspective on the story,
- ✓ identifying the meaning of unfamiliar figurative language using context.

GRADE 8 – TIER 2 – ADVANCED

An eighth grade Tier 2 student performing at the *Advanced* Level demonstrates a consistent academic awareness of the knowledge, skills, and processes outlined by the Pennsylvania Alternate Eligible Content.

In addition to the skills demonstrated by students performing at the *Proficient* Level, students performing at this level demonstrate these abilities by

- ✓ identifying multiple points of view in the text,
- ✓ determining how word choice and the character's actions make the reader feel,
- ✓ identifying conflicting information presented in 2 texts on the same topic,
- ✓ identifying the connections between each major event in the story.

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GRADE 11 – TIER 2 – EMERGING

An eleventh grade Tier 2 student performing at the *Emerging* Level demonstrates a progressing academic awareness of the knowledge, skills, and processes outlined by the Pennsylvania Alternate Eligible Content.

Students performing at this level demonstrate these abilities by

- ✓ identifying the meaning of unfamiliar and multiple meaning words and phrases,
- ✓ answering basic literal or inferential questions using key details and evidence.

GRADE 11 – TIER 2 – NOVICE

An eleventh grade Tier 2 student performing at the *Novice* Level demonstrates a developing academic awareness of the knowledge, skills, and processes outlined by the Pennsylvania Alternate Eligible Content.

In addition to the skills demonstrated by students performing at the *Emerging* level, students performing at this level demonstrate these abilities by

- ✓ identifying the meaning of unfamiliar words or phrases using context or word parts,
- ✓ identifying a conclusion or summary statement,
- ✓ accessing informational material needed to answer a question.

GRADE 11 – TIER 2 – PROFICIENT

An eleventh grade Tier 2 student performing at the *Proficient* Level demonstrates an essential academic awareness of the knowledge, skills, and processes outlined by the Pennsylvania Alternate Eligible Content.

In addition to the skills demonstrated by students performing at the *Novice* Level, students performing at this level demonstrate these abilities by

- ✓ identifying the author's claim/argument and evidence that does and does not support it,
- ✓ defining domain specific or academic vocabulary,
- ✓ using informational material to generate plausible answers to questions.

GRADE 11 – TIER 2 – ADVANCED

An eleventh grade Tier 2 student performing at the *Advanced* Level demonstrates a consistent academic awareness of the knowledge, skills, and processes outlined by the Pennsylvania Alternate Eligible Content.

In addition to the skills demonstrated by students performing at the *Proficient* Level, students performing at this level demonstrate these abilities by

- ✓ identifying two or more central ideas using key details,
- ✓ breaking unfamiliar vocabulary into parts to determine meaning
- ✓ identifying similarities and differences in a multimedia version and a written story,
- ✓ determining why events or ideas in a story are linked,
- ✓ describe major themes reflected in documents of historical or political significance.