Iowa Alternate Assessment

Performance Level Descriptors & Cut Scores

2012-2013

Reading

Grade 3 – Reading Performance Descriptors and Cut Scores

Basic	Proficient	Advanced
Demonstrates a limited understanding of or ability to: • identify characters and setting • use context clues to understand some words • draw conclusions using predicting skills • identify some text features	Demonstrates a satisfactory understanding of or ability to: • identify characters and setting • use context clues to understand some words • draw conclusions using predicting skills • identify some text features	Demonstrates a thorough understanding of or ability to: • identify characters and setting • use context clues to understand some words • draw conclusions using predicting skills • identify some text features
0-15	16-25	26+

Grade 4 – Reading Performance Descriptors and Cut Scores

Basic	Proficient	Advanced
Demonstrates a limited understanding of or ability to: • identify characters, setting and sequence of events (plot) • use context clues to understand some words • draw conclusions using predicting skills • identify text features • infer character feelings	Demonstrates a satisfactory understanding of or ability to: • identify characters, setting and sequence of events (plot) • use context clues to understand some words • draw conclusions using predicting skills • identify text features • infer character feelings	Demonstrates a thorough understanding of or ability to: • identify characters, setting and sequences of events (plot) • use context clues to understand some words • draw conclusions using predicting skills • identify text features • infer character feelings
0-17	18-26	27+

Grade 5 – Reading Performance Descriptors and Cut Scores

Basic	Proficient	Advanced
Demonstrates a limited understanding of or ability to: • identify characters, setting and sequence of events (plot) • use context clues to understand some words • draw conclusions • identify text features • connect story or text to personal experiences • infer character feelings and traits • identify author's point of view • identify main ideas of a passage	Demonstrates a satisfactory understanding of or ability to: • identify characters, setting and sequence of events (plot) • use context clues to understand some words • draw conclusions • identify text features • connect story or text to personal experiences • infer character feelings and traits • identify author's point of view • identify main ideas of a passage	Demonstrates a thorough understanding of or ability to: • identify characters, setting and sequence of events (plot) • use context clues to understand some words • draw conclusions • identify text features • connect story or text to personal experiences • infer character feelings and traits • identify author's point of view • identify main ideas of a passage
0-21	22-27	28+

Grade 6 – Reading Performance Descriptors and Cut Scores

Basic	Proficient	Advanced
Demonstrates a limited understanding of or ability to: • understand stated information • use context clues to understand some words • draw conclusions and make inferences • identify text features • connect story or text to other media • infer character feelings, traits, and motives • identify author's purpose • identify main idea	Demonstrates a satisfactory understanding of or ability to: • understand stated information • use context clues to understand some words • draw conclusions and make inferences • identify text features • connect story or text to other media • infer character feelings, traits, and motives • identify author's purpose • identify main ideas	Demonstrates a thorough understanding of or ability to: • understand stated information • use context clues to understand some words • draw conclusions and make inferences • identify text features • connect story or text to other media • infer character feelings, traits, and motives • identify author's purpose • identify main ideas
0-20	21-34	35+

Grade 7 – Reading Performance Descriptors and Cut Scores

Basic	Proficient	Advanced
Demonstrates a limited understanding of or ability to: • understand stated information • determine the meanings of new words from their context • draw conclusions, use inferences and/or deduce meaning • identify style and structure • identify author's purpose • identify main ideas • identify nonliteral language in text	Demonstrates a satisfactory understanding of or ability to: • understand stated information • determine the meanings of new words from their context • draw conclusions, use inferences and/or deduce meaning • identify style and structure • identify author's purpose • identify main ideas • identify nonliteral language in text	Demonstrates a thorough understanding of or ability to: • understand stated information • determine the meanings of new words from their context • draw conclusions, use inferences and/or deduce meaning • identify style and structure • identify author's purpose • identify main idea • identify nonliteral language in text
0-22	23-37	38+

Grade 8 – Reading Performance Descriptors and Cut Scores

Basic	Proficient	Advanced
Demonstrates a limited understanding of or ability to: • understand stated information • interpret information in new contexts • draw conclusions, use inferences and/or deduce meaning • recognize style and structure • identify main idea • interpret nonliteral language in text • identify author's point of view and/or purpose	Demonstrates a satisfactory understanding of or ability to: • understand stated information • interpret information in new contexts • draw conclusions, use inferences and/or deduce meaning • recognize style and structure • identify main idea • interpret nonliteral language in text • identify author's point of view and/or purpose	Demonstrates a thorough understanding of or ability to: • understand stated information • interpret information in new contexts • draw conclusions, use inferences and/or deduce meaning • recognize style and structure • identify main idea • interpret nonliteral language in text • identify author's point of view and/or purpose
0-25	26-39	40+

Grade 11 - Reading Performance Descriptors and Cut Scores

Basic	Proficient	Advanced
Demonstrates a limited understanding of or ability to: • make predictions based on stated information • interpret information in new contexts • draw conclusions, use inferences and/or deduce meaning • recognize style, structure and/or literary techniques • determine main idea, topic and/or theme • interpret nonliteral language in text • identify author's point of view and/or purpose • distinguish among facts/opinions and/or assumptions	Demonstrates a satisfactory understanding of or ability to: • make predictions based on stated information • interpret information in new contexts • draw conclusions, use inferences and/or deduce meaning • recognize style, structure and/or literary techniques • determine main idea, topic and/or theme • interpret nonliteral language in text • identify author's point of view and/or purpose • distinguish among facts/opinions and/or assumptions	Demonstrates a thorough understanding of or ability to: • make predictions based on stated information • interpret information in new contexts • draw conclusions, use inferences and/or deduce meaning • recognize style, structure and/or literary techniques • determine main idea, topic and/or theme • interpret nonliteral language in text • identify author's point of view and/or purpose • distinguish among facts/opinions and/or assumptions
0-25	26-34	35+