

**EXPLORE
READING TEST**

Table 6: The College Readiness Standards

The Standards describe what students who score in the specified score ranges are *likely* to know and to be able to do. The ideas for progress help teachers identify ways of enhancing students' learning based on the scores students receive. The score range at the Benchmark level of achievement is highlighted.

		Main Ideas and Author's Approach	Supporting Details
1–12	Standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students who score in the 1–12 range are most likely beginning to develop the knowledge and skills assessed in the other score ranges. 	
	ideas for progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> locate details in a literary text that suggest the author's or narrator's intent speculate about an author's or narrator's beliefs, motives, or thinking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> write, exchange, and answer a series of questions that examine significant details presented in a text locate and discuss details presented in a text (e.g., who, what, where)
13–15	Standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognize a clear intent of an author or narrator in uncomplicated literary narratives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Locate basic facts (e.g., names, dates, events) clearly stated in a passage
	ideas for progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> work with peers to create logical statements about the main idea or purpose of simple paragraphs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> determine which details in a text are essential to understanding the author's or narrator's intended message scan a text in order to locate specific details (e.g., dates, specialized terms, facts) identify the author's or narrator's reasons for including specific information in the text

Descriptions of the EXPLORE Reading Passages

Uncomplicated Literary Narratives refers to excerpts from essays, short stories, and novels that tend to use simple language and structure, have a clear purpose and a familiar style, present straightforward interactions between characters, and employ only a limited number of literary devices such as metaphor, simile, or hyperbole.

More Challenging Literary Narratives refers to excerpts from essays, short stories, and novels that tend to make moderate use of figurative language, have a more intricate structure and messages conveyed with some subtlety, and may feature somewhat complex interactions between characters.

<i>Sequential, Comparative, and Cause-Effect Relationships</i>	<i>Meanings of Words</i>	<i>Generalizations and Conclusions</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ use various strategies (e.g., timelines, event chains, discussion) to determine whether an event occurred and, if so, when it occurred ■ discuss an issue of interest, determining how past events affected the present ■ locate evidence in a text that explicitly states why an event or a series of events occurred ■ search for patterns or clues (e.g., signal words) that indicate cause-effect relationships 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ use various resources (e.g., dictionary, thesaurus) to explore connotations of familiar words or descriptive language 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ recognize generalizations about the main character in a literary text ■ combine several pieces of information to make a reasonable generalization about a specific character ■ make predictions about characters and events presented in a literary text, verifying or rejecting those predictions and making new ones as they read
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Determine when (e.g., first, last, before, after) or if an event occurred in uncomplicated passages ■ Recognize clear cause-effect relationships described within a single sentence in a passage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Understand the implication of a familiar word or phrase and of simple descriptive language 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Draw simple generalizations and conclusions about the main characters in uncomplicated literary narratives
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ analyze how an author or narrator uses description, dialogue, and action to suggest relationships between characters in written or nonprint sources (e.g., films, ads) ■ select phrases or statements from a literary text that illustrate how a specific character feels toward others in the text ■ read portions of a literary text, predicting how a person's actions or words would likely impact a specific situation ■ use various strategies (e.g., questioning, role-playing) to determine plausible cause-effect relationships 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ examine specific language in a text and propose plausible interpretations based in part on their own viewpoints and experiences 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ analyze the reasonableness of generalizations by reviewing information presented in the text and from other sources ■ compose generalizations that include qualifying language (e.g., <i>a few</i>, <i>sometimes</i>) when limited evidence is presented by the author or narrator ■ determine what a literary narrative is generally about, organizing the text's information into general statements that are supported by details from the text ■ draw reasonable conclusions about people and situations using evidence presented in a text

Uncomplicated Informational Passages

refers to materials that tend to contain a limited amount of data, address basic concepts using familiar language and conventional organizational patterns, have a clear purpose, and are written to be accessible.

More Challenging Informational Passages

refers to materials that tend to present concepts that are not always stated explicitly and that are accompanied or illustrated by more—and more detailed—supporting data, include some difficult context-dependent words, and are written in a somewhat more demanding and less accessible style.

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Table 6 (continued): The College Readiness Standards

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		<i>Main Ideas and Author's Approach</i>	<i>Supporting Details</i>
16–19	Standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify a clear main idea or purpose of straightforward paragraphs in uncomplicated literary narratives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Locate simple details at the sentence and paragraph level in uncomplicated passages Recognize a clear function of a part of an uncomplicated passage
	ideas for progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> analyze techniques used by the author of a text to reveal or conceal his or her point of view 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> explain in their own words the significance of specific information in written or nonprint sources distinguish between what is most and least important in a text
20–23	Standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Infer the main idea or purpose of straightforward paragraphs in uncomplicated literary narratives Understand the overall approach taken by an author or narrator (e.g., point of view, kinds of evidence used) in uncomplicated passages 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Locate important details in uncomplicated passages Make simple inferences about how details are used in passages
	ideas for progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> determine how an inference might change based on the inclusion of additional information synthesize information from challenging texts to clarify understanding of important concepts and ideas distinguish between key concepts and subordinate ideas in a text and write a concise summary search for clues that suggest the viewpoint from which a literary text is written or told and determine whether the author's or narrator's point of view is valid or biased analyze the relationship between an author's or narrator's intended message and the rhetorical devices used to convey that message (e.g., language used, evidence provided) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> gather and interpret details presented in a text, determining the contribution of each to the author's or narrator's intended message identify details that clearly support the key point(s) of written or nonprint sources check inferences against information provided in a text, identifying what is and is not sufficiently supported by the text

<i>Sequential, Comparative, and Cause-Effect Relationships</i>	<i>Meanings of Words</i>	<i>Generalizations and Conclusions</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Identify relationships between main characters in uncomplicated literary narratives ■ Recognize clear cause-effect relationships within a single paragraph in uncomplicated literary narratives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Use context to understand basic figurative language 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Draw simple generalizations and conclusions about people, ideas, and so on in uncomplicated passages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ place events from a literary text in chronological order by locating substantial evidence from the text ■ identify similarities and differences between people, objects, events, or ideas, drawing accurate conclusions ■ identify interrelationships between and among people, objects, events, or ideas in written or nonprint sources ■ determine factors that have clearly influenced the outcome of a situation ■ identify statements in texts that clearly state the cause(s) and effect(s) of specific events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ clarify the meanings of words or descriptive phrases by searching for clues in the text (e.g., sentence structure, context, prefixes/suffixes, spelling patterns) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ make accurate generalizations about people and events based on evidence presented in the text ■ identify inaccurate generalizations (e.g., stereotypes) in written or nonprint sources ■ identify details in a challenging text that confirm or disprove conclusions drawn by the author or narrator and by the students themselves or their peers ■ make reasoned judgments about ideas and events based on evidence from written or nonprint sources
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Order simple sequences of events in uncomplicated literary narratives ■ Identify clear relationships between people, ideas, and so on in uncomplicated passages ■ Identify clear cause-effect relationships in uncomplicated passages 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Use context to determine the appropriate meaning of some figurative and nonfigurative words, phrases, and statements in uncomplicated passages 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Draw generalizations and conclusions about people, ideas, and so on in uncomplicated passages ■ Draw simple generalizations and conclusions using details that support the main points of more challenging passages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ analyze the sequence of events in written or nonprint sources ■ map sequences of events in texts or films or from everyday occurrences, defending their reasoning ■ evaluate the extent to which comparisons made by the author or narrator help clarify specific textual relationships ■ search for clues embedded in a text that suggest cause-effect relationships ■ examine events in written or nonprint sources to determine the precipitating cause(s) and final outcome(s) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ investigate the meanings of words and their possible effect(s) on the perceptions and behavior of people ■ research words and phrases from different sources, identifying their shades of meaning in various contexts or situations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ defend or challenge the author's or narrator's assertions by locating several key pieces of information in a challenging text ■ make accurate generalizations based on implicit information in the text ■ analyze specific parts of a text, drawing accurate conclusions

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		<i>Main Ideas and Author's Approach</i>	<i>Supporting Details</i>
24–25	Standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Identify a clear main idea or purpose of any paragraph or paragraphs in uncomplicated passages ■ Infer the main idea or purpose of straightforward paragraphs in more challenging passages ■ Summarize basic events and ideas in more challenging passages ■ Understand the overall approach taken by an author or narrator (e.g., point of view, kinds of evidence used) in more challenging passages 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Locate important details in more challenging passages ■ Locate and interpret minor or subtly stated details in uncomplicated passages ■ Discern which details, though they may appear in different sections throughout a passage, support important points in more challenging passages
	ideas for progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ develop a reasonable interpretation of the central theme(s) or main point(s) of a challenging text ■ divide challenging texts into sections, determining what the key points are for each section ■ determine the primary purpose of specific sections of a text or the text as a whole ■ use two different mediums (e.g., sculpture, poetry, photography, music) to present a synopsis of the main idea(s) of a text, thereby expanding understanding of the text's meaning ■ identify subtle evidence that conveys the author's or narrator's point of view in challenging texts ■ change the wording of a text in order to convey a different tone or attitude (e.g., from persuasive to serious) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ enumerate aspects or characteristics of people, objects, events, or ideas ■ interpret and integrate details in a text in order to verify or contradict a specific point or claim made by the author or narrator ■ recognize and study the evolution of an author's argument(s) as presented in a complex informational text

<i>Sequential, Comparative, and Cause-Effect Relationships</i>	<i>Meanings of Words</i>	<i>Generalizations and Conclusions</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Order sequences of events in uncomplicated passages ■ Understand relationships between people, ideas, and so on in uncomplicated passages ■ Identify clear relationships between characters, ideas, and so on in more challenging literary narratives ■ Understand implied or subtly stated cause-effect relationships in uncomplicated passages ■ Identify clear cause-effect relationships in more challenging passages 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Use context to determine the appropriate meaning of virtually any word, phrase, or statement in uncomplicated passages ■ Use context to determine the appropriate meaning of some figurative and nonfigurative words, phrases, and statements in more challenging passages 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Draw subtle generalizations and conclusions about characters, ideas, and so on in uncomplicated literary narratives ■ Draw generalizations and conclusions about people, ideas, and so on in more challenging passages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ read texts containing challenging sequences (e.g., flashback, flash-forward), discussing how the order of events affects understanding of the text ■ explain how altering a series of events would likely change the outcome of a situation or the actions of the characters ■ develop an in-depth understanding of the fine distinctions between literary characters in a challenging text by closely examining the language used by the author or narrator ■ identify relationships between ideas and/or people in a challenging text and how those relationships develop over the course of the text ■ identify clues in a challenging text that suggest possible motives for and effects of a person's actions or words ■ read conflicting viewpoints of an event and use textual evidence to identify which one has the most reasonable explanations of causes and effects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ develop and use strategies for deciphering the meanings of words or phrases embedded in richly figurative or technical contexts ■ analyze figurative and technical language in the media, relating some instances to a personal experience 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ synthesize information in challenging texts, making valid generalizations or conclusions about people and situations ■ confirm or disprove generalizations suggested in texts by providing examples or counterexamples from other sources