

ISTEP+ Performance Level Descriptors

English/Language Arts – Grade 3

Grade 3

Pass+

Third-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 3 students scoring at the *Pass +* level include:

- Describe how each successive part of a text builds on earlier sections;
- Describe characters and how their actions contribute to the plot of a text; and
- Synthesize and connect ideas across texts of the same author.

When reading **nonfiction**, such as articles and excerpts from books, specific knowledge, skills, and abilities for Grade 3 students scoring at the *Pass +* level include:

- Determine the main idea in a text and use details to support main ideas;
- Determine relationships among events in texts; and
- Compare and contrast important points and details in two texts.

When **writing**, students craft well-organized, clearly focused, and detailed narrative, persuasive, and informative 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 3 students scoring at the *Pass+* level include:

- Write focused compositions containing several ideas and descriptive word choices;
- Connect ideas using transitions and phrases; and
- Provide a developed ending or concluding paragraph.

Grade 3

Pass

Third-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 appropriate Standard English conventions when producing different writing forms.

When reading **literature**, such as fiction and poetry, specific knowledge, skills, and abilities for Grade 3 students scoring at the *Pass* level include:

- Answer questions about what is read;
- Retell what is read;
- Determine theme;
- Describe characters; and
- Determine how an author uses words and phrases to provide meaning.

When reading **nonfiction** texts, such as articles and excerpts from books, specific knowledge, skills, and abilities for Grade 3 students scoring at the *Pass* level include:

- Answer questions about what is read;
- Determine the main idea in a text;
- Explain how an author uses reasons and facts for support of ideas;
- Determine the meaning of words and phrases in a text;
- Use text features to locate information in what is read;
- Identify text structure and understand its relevance; and
- Distinguish the purposes of various media messages.

When **writing**, students construct proficient narrative, persuasive, and informative compositions, including a response to a literature or nonfiction text, using mostly appropriate Standard English conventions. Examples of specific knowledge, skills, and abilities for Grade 3 students scoring at the *Pass* level include:

- Recognize reliable sources;
- Write to a specific audience and purpose;
- Write paragraphs with topic sentences;
- Provide an ending or concluding statement; and
- Write compositions containing interesting word choices and organized ideas.

Grade 3 Did Not Pass

Third-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 3 students scoring at the *Did Not Pass* level include:

- Find answers in a text;
- Determine point of view of the narrator or characters; and
- Use sentence clues to find meanings of unknown words.

When reading **nonfiction**, such as articles and excerpts from books, specific knowledge, skills, and abilities for Grade 3 students scoring at the *Did Not Pass* level include:

- Find answers in a text;
- Use sentence clues to find meanings of unknown words; and
- Distinguish between fact and opinion.

When **writing**, students display limited writing skills when producing narrative, persuasive, and informative compositions, including a response to a literature or nonfiction text, using basic appropriate Standard English conventions. Examples of specific knowledge, skills, and abilities for Grade 3 students scoring at the *Did Not Pass* level include:

- Write complete sentences;
- Introduce ideas; and
- Write compositions containing basic word choices and ideas.