Performance Level	Level of Text Complexity <sup>1</sup>	Range of Accuracy <sup>2</sup>	Quality of Evidence <sup>3</sup>
	Very Complex	Mostly Accurate	Explicit
5	Moderately Complex	Mostly Accurate	Explicit
	Readily Accessible	Accurate	Explicit
	Very Complex	Generally Accurate	Explicit
4	Moderately Complex	Generally Accurate	Explicit
	Readily Accessible	Mostly Accurate	Explicit
	Very Complex	Minimally Accurate	Explicit
3	Moderately Complex	Generally accurate	Explicit
	Readily Accessible	Mostly Accurate	Explicit
	Very Complex	Inaccurate	Explicit
2	Moderately Complex	Minimally accurate	Explicit
	Readily Accessible	Partially accurate	Explicit

Grade 3 English Language Arts/Literacy Performance Level Descriptors

### 1. Text Complexity

The complexity framework reflects the importance of text complexity as it relates to the CCSS, which indicates that 50 percent of an item's complexity is linked to the complexity of the text(s) used as the stimulus for that item. Consequently, to determine students' performance levels, it is critical to identify the pattern of responses when students respond to items linked to passages with distinct text complexities. To this end, a clear and consistent model has been developed to define text complexity and the use of three text complexity levels has been determined: readily accessible, moderately complex, or very complex. For more information on text complexity, refer to the CCSS Appendix A (<u>http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy</u>) and Appendix B (<u>http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy</u>).

The two components for determining text complexity for **all** passages are as follows:

a. Two quantitative text complexity measures (Reading Maturity Metric and Lexile) will be used to analyze all reading passages to determine **an initial** recommendation for placement of a text into a grade band and subsequently a grade level.

b. Text Analysis Worksheets, one for informational text and one for literary text, are then used to determine qualitative measures. Trained evaluators use these worksheets to determine a recommendation for qualitative text complexity within the grade level, with each text defined as readily accessible, moderately complex, or very complex.

For multimedia texts, qualitative judgments from one or both of the "optional" categories in the Complexity Analysis Worksheet will be combined with judgments in the other categories to make a holistic determination of the complexity of the material.

#### 2. Range of Accuracy

There are three types of items on the summative assessments. For Evidence-Based Selected Response (EBSR) and Technology-Enhanced Constructed Response (TECR) items, the design is such that the items help contribute to an understanding of how accurately students comprehend text (demonstrate mastery of CCSS Reading Standards 2-10). Some of these items offer opportunities for students to receive partial credit based on the range of accuracy. For Prose-Constructed Response (PCR) items, draft scoring rubrics have been developed that include a Reading dimension to measure comprehension. Scores on the PCR items contribute to an evaluation of the degree to which a student can accurately comprehend a text.

The assessment Performance Level Descriptors (PLDs) describe five levels of accuracy at grades 3-8 that are determined using the reading data collected through EBSR, TECR, and PCR items:

Accurate – The student is able to accurately state both the general ideas expressed in the text(s) and the key and supporting details. The response is complete, and the student demonstrates <u>full</u> understanding.

Mostly accurate – The student is able to accurately state most of the general ideas expressed in the text(s) and the key and supporting details, but the response is incomplete or contains minor inaccuracies. The student demonstrates understanding.

Generally accurate – The student is able to accurately state the gist of the text(s) but fails to accurately state the key and supporting details in the text or to connect such details to the overarching meaning of the text(s). The student demonstrates basic understanding.

**Partially accurate** – The student is able to accurately state the gist of the text(s) but is unable to state some of the key or supporting details with accuracy. The student is partially able to connect the specific details of the text to the overarching meaning(s) of the text. The student demonstrates <u>partial</u> understanding.

**Minimally accurate** – The student is unable to accurately state the gist of the text(s) but is able to minimally state some of the key or supporting details with accuracy. The student does not connect the specific details of the text to the overarching meaning(s) of the text. The student demonstrates <u>minimal</u> understanding.

Inaccurate – The student is unable to accurately state either the gist of the text or the key and supporting details evident in the text. The student demonstrates limited understanding.

#### 3. Quality of Evidence

All items are designed to contribute to an understanding of how students "read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it" and "cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text" (CCSS Anchor Reading Standard 1). Some items offer opportunities for students to receive partial credit based on the quality of evidence provided. Students support their comprehension with explicit and/or inferential evidence:

Explicit evidence – Students show how the explicit words and phrases (details) from the text support statements made about the meaning of the text.

Inferential evidence – Students show how inferences drawn from the text support statements made about the meaning of the text.

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Reading Sub-Claims	<b>Reading Literature</b> Students demonstrate comprehension and draw evidence from readings of grade-level, complex literary text.	<b>Reading Information</b> Students demonstrate comprehension and draw evidence from readings of grade-level, complex informational text.	Vocabulary Interpretation and Use Students use context to determine the meaning of words and phrases.
<b>EVIDENCES:</b> Students are expected to produce responses that demonstrate the skills and content listed in the evidence tables at the accuracy level and with the quality of evidence as described for students at each level.	See Literary Evidence Table	See Informational Evidence Table	See Vocabulary Evidence Table

Level 5	Level 4	Level 3	Level 2
A student who achieves at Level 5 exceeds expectations for the assessed standards. In reading, the pattern exhibited by student responses indicates: • With very complex text, students demonstrate	A student who achieves at Level 4 meets expectations for the assessed standards. In reading, the pattern exhibited by student responses indicates: • With very complex text, students demonstrate	A student who achieves at Level 3 approaches expectations for the assessed standards. In reading, the pattern exhibited by student responses indicates: • With very complex text, students demonstrate	A student who achieves at Level 2 partially meets expectations for the assessed standards. In reading, the pattern exhibited by student responses indicates: • With very complex text, students demonstrate
<ul> <li>the ability to be <u>mostly accurate</u> when asking and/or answering questions, showing understanding of the text when referring to explicit details and examples in the text.</li> <li>With <u>moderately complex text</u>, students demonstrate the ability to be <u>mostly accurate</u> when asking and/or answering questions, showing understanding of the text when referring to explicit details and examples in the text.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>the ability to be <u>generally accurate</u> when asking and/or answering questions, showing <u>general</u> understanding of the text when referring to explicit details and examples in the text.</li> <li>With <u>moderately complex text</u>, students demonstrate the ability to be <u>generally accurate</u> when asking and/or answering questions, showing <u>general</u> understanding of the text when referring to explicit details and examples in the text.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>the <u>ability</u> to be <u>minimally accurate</u> when asking and/or answering questions, showing <u>minimal</u> understanding of the text when referring to explicit details and examples in the text.</li> <li>With <u>moderately complex text</u>, students demonstrate the ability to be <u>generally accurate</u> when asking and/or answering questions, showing <u>basic</u> understanding of the text when referring to explicit details and examples in the text.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>the <u>inability</u> to ask or answer questions, showing <u>limited</u> understanding of the text when referring to explicit details and examples in the text.</li> <li>With <u>moderately complex text</u>, students demonstrate the ability to be <u>minimally</u> <u>accurate</u> when asking and/or answering questions, showing <u>minimal</u> understanding of the text when referring to explicit details and examples in the text.</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>With <u>readily accessible text</u>, students demonstrate the ability to be <u>accurate</u> when asking and/or answering questions, showing <u>full</u> understanding of the text when referring to explicit details and examples in the text.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>With <u>readily accessible text</u>, students demonstrate the ability to be <u>mostly accurate</u> when asking and/or answering questions, showing understanding of the text when referring to explicit details and examples in the text.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>With <u>readily accessible text</u>, students demonstrate the ability to be <u>mostly accurate</u> when asking and/or answering questions, showing understanding of the text when referring to explicit details and examples in the text.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>With <u>readily accessible text</u>, students demonstrate the ability to be <u>partially accurate</u> when asking and/or answering questions, showing <u>partial</u> understanding of the text when referring to explicit details and examples in the text.</li> </ul>

#### Writing Sub-Claim for Written Expression: Students produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to the task, purpose, and audience.

<b>EVIDENCES:</b> Students are expected to produce responses that demonstrate the skills and content listed in the
evidence tables at the accuracy level and with the quality of evidence as described for students at each level.

Level 5	Level 4	Level 3	Level 2
A student who achieves at Level 5 exceeds	A student who achieves at Level 4 meets	A student who achieves at Level 3 approaches	A student who achieves at Level 2 partially
expectations for the assessed standards.	expectations for the assessed standards.	expectations for the assessed standards.	meets expectations for the assessed standards.
In <b>writing</b> , students address the prompts and provide <u>effective</u> development of ideas, including when drawing evidence from multiple sources, in the majority of instances demonstrating <u>purposeful</u> and <u>controlled</u> organization.	In <b>writing</b> , students address the prompts and provide development of ideas, including when drawing evidence from multiple sources, while in the majority of instances demonstrating <u>purposeful</u> and <u>mostly</u> <u>controlled</u> organization.	In <b>writing</b> , students address the prompts and provide <u>basic</u> development of ideas, including when drawing evidence from multiple sources, while in the majority of instances demonstrating organization that <u>sometimes is controlled</u> .	In <b>writing</b> , students address the prompts and provide <u>minimal</u> development of ideas, including when drawing evidence from multiple sources, while in the majority of instances demonstrating organization that <u>often is not controlled</u> .
<ul> <li>The student:</li> <li>Provides effective development of the topic and/or narrative elements, using reasoning, details, text-based evidence, and/or description.</li> <li>Develops topic and/or narrative elements in a manner that is appropriate to the task and purpose.</li> <li>Demonstrates purposeful organization that includes an introduction and/or conclusion.</li> <li>Effectively uses linking words and phrases, descriptive words, and/or temporal words to express ideas with clarity.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>The student:</li> <li>Develops the topic and/or narrative elements using reasoning, details, text- based evidence, and/or description.</li> <li>Develops topic and/or narrative elements in a manner that is mostly appropriate to the task and purpose.</li> <li>Demonstrates purposeful organization that is mostly controlled and may include an introduction and/or conclusion.</li> <li>Uses linking words and phrases, descriptive words, and/or temporal words to express ideas with clarity.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>The student:</li> <li>Develops the topic and/or narrative elements using some reasoning, details, text- based evidence, and/or description.</li> <li>Demonstrates some organization.</li> <li>Includes some linking words and phrases, descriptive words, and/or temporal words, limiting the clarity with which ideas are expressed.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>The student:</li> <li>Provides minimal development of the topic and/or narrative elements and is, therefore, inappropriate to the task and purpose.</li> <li>Demonstrates minimal organization.</li> <li>Includes minimal linking words and phrases, descriptive words, and/or temporal words, limiting the clarity with which ideas are expressed.</li> </ul>

#### Writing Sub-Claim for Knowledge of Language and Conventions: Students demonstrate knowledge of conventions and other important elements of language.

**EVIDENCES:** Students are expected to produce responses that demonstrate the skills and content listed in the evidence tables at the accuracy level and with the quality of evidence as described for students at each level.

Level 5	Level 4	Level 3	Level 2
A student who achieves at <b>Level 5 exceeds</b> <b>expectations</b> for the assessed standards.	A student who achieves at <b>Level 4 meets</b> expectations for the assessed standards.	A student who achieves at Level 3 approaches expectations for the assessed standards.	A student who achieves at Level 2 partially meets expectations for the assessed standards.
In <b>writing</b> , students demonstrate <u>full</u> command of the conventions of Standard English consistent with edited writing. There <u>may be some errors</u> in grammar and usage, but overall meaning is clear.	In <b>writing</b> , students demonstrate command of the conventions of Standard English consistent with edited writing. There are <u>errors</u> in grammar and usage that <u>may occasionally impede</u> understanding.	In <b>writing</b> , students demonstrate <u>basic</u> command of the conventions of Standard English consistent with edited writing. There are <u>few patterns of errors</u> in grammar and usage that <u>impede</u> understanding, demonstrating <u>partial</u> control over language.	In <b>writing</b> , students demonstrate <u>minimal</u> command of the conventions of Standard English consistent with edited writing. There are <u>patterns of errors</u> in grammar and usage that <u>impede</u> understanding, demonstrating <u>minima</u> l control over language.

Performance Level	Level of Text Complexity <sup>1</sup>	Range of Accuracy <sup>2</sup>	Quality of Evidence <sup>3</sup>
-	Very Complex	Mostly Accurate	Explicit & Inferential
5	Moderately Complex Readily Accessible	Mostly Accurate Accurate	Explicit & Inferential Explicit & Inferential
	Very Complex	Generally Accurate	Explicit & Inferential
4	Moderately Complex	Generally Accurate	Explicit & Inferential
	Readily Accessible	Mostly Accurate	Explicit & Inferential
	Very Complex	Minimally Accurate	Explicit & Inferential
3	Moderately Complex	Generally accurate	Explicit & Inferential
	Readily Accessible	Mostly Accurate	Explicit & Inferential
	Very Complex	Inaccurate	Explicit & Inferential
2	Moderately Complex	Minimally accurate	Explicit & Inferential
	Readily Accessible	Partially accurate	Explicit & Inferential

#### Grade 4 English Language Arts/Literacy Performance Level Descriptors

### 1. Text Complexity

The complexity framework reflects the importance of text complexity as it relates to the CCSS, which indicates that 50 percent of an item's complexity is linked to the complexity of the text(s) used as the stimulus for that item. Consequently, to determine students' performance levels, it is critical to identify the pattern of responses when students respond to items linked to passages with distinct text complexities. To this end, a clear and consistent model has been developed to define text complexity and the use of three text complexity levels has been determined: readily accessible, moderately complex, or very complex. For more information on text complexity, refer to the CCSS Appendix A (<u>http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy</u>) and Appendix B (<u>http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy</u>).

The two components for determining text complexity for **all** passages are as follows:

a. Two quantitative text complexity measures (Reading Maturity Metric and Lexile) will be used to analyze all reading passages to determine **an initial** recommendation for placement of a text into a grade band and subsequently a grade level.

b. Text Analysis Worksheets, one for informational text and one for literary text, are then used to determine qualitative measures. Trained evaluators use these worksheets to determine a recommendation for qualitative text complexity within the grade level, with each text defined as readily accessible, moderately complex, or very complex.

For multimedia texts, qualitative judgments from one or both of the "optional" categories in the Complexity Analysis Worksheet will be combined with judgments in the other categories to make a holistic determination of the complexity of the material.

#### 2. Range of Accuracy

There are three types of items on the summative assessments. For Evidence-Based Selected Response (EBSR) and Technology-Enhanced Constructed Response (TECR) items, the design is such that the items help contribute to an understanding of how accurately students comprehend text (demonstrate mastery of CCSS Reading Standards 2-10). Some of these items offer opportunities for students to receive partial credit based on the range of accuracy. For Prose-Constructed Response (PCR) items, draft scoring rubrics have been developed that include a Reading dimension to measure comprehension. Scores on the PCR items contribute to an evaluation of the degree to which a student can accurately comprehend a text.

The assessment Performance Level Descriptors (PLDs) describe five levels of accuracy at grades 3-8 that are determined using the reading data collected through EBSR, TECR, and PCR items:

Accurate – The student is able to accurately state both the general ideas expressed in the text(s) and the key and supporting details. The response is complete, and the student demonstrates <u>full</u> understanding.

Mostly accurate – The student is able to accurately state most of the general ideas expressed in the text(s) and the key and supporting details, but the response is incomplete or contains minor inaccuracies. The student demonstrates understanding.

Generally accurate – The student is able to accurately state the gist of the text(s) but fails to accurately state the key and supporting details in the text or to connect such details to the overarching meaning of the text(s). The student demonstrates basic understanding.

**Partially accurate** – The student is able to accurately state the gist of the text(s) but is unable to state some of the key or supporting details with accuracy. The student is partially able to connect the specific details of the text to the overarching meaning(s) of the text. The student demonstrates <u>partial</u> understanding.

**Minimally accurate** – The student is unable to accurately state the gist of the text(s) but is able to minimally state some of the key or supporting details with accuracy. The student does not connect the specific details of the text to the overarching meaning(s) of the text. The student demonstrates <u>minimal</u> understanding.

Inaccurate – The student is unable to accurately state either the gist of the text or the key and supporting details evident in the text. The student demonstrates limited understanding.

### 3. Quality of Evidence

All items are designed to contribute to an understanding of how students "read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it" and "cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text" (CCSS Anchor Reading Standard 1). Some items offer opportunities for students to receive partial credit based on the quality of evidence provided. Students support their comprehension with explicit and/or inferential evidence:

Explicit evidence – Students show how the explicit words and phrases (details) from the text support statements made about the meaning of the text.

Inferential evidence – Students show how inferences drawn from the text support statements made about the meaning of the text.

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# Grade 4 English Language Arts/Literacy Performance Level Descriptors

Reading Sub-Claims	<b>Reading Literature</b> Students demonstrate comprehension and draw evidence from readings of grade-level, complex literary text.	<b>Reading Information</b> Students demonstrate comprehension and draw evidence from readings of grade-level, complex informational text.	Vocabulary Interpretation and Use Students use context to determine the meaning of words and phrases.
<b>EVIDENCES:</b> Students are expected to produce responses that demonstrate the skills and content listed in the evidence tables at the accuracy level and with the quality of evidence as described for students at each level.	See Literary Evidence Table	See Informational Evidence Table	See Vocabulary Evidence Table

Level 5	Level 4	Level 3	Level 2
A student who achieves at Level 5 exceeds expectations for the assessed standards. In reading, the pattern exhibited by student responses indicates: • With very complex text, students demonstrate the	A student who achieves at Level 4 meets expectations for the assessed standards. In reading, the pattern exhibited by student responses indicates: • With very complex text, students demonstrate the	<ul> <li>A student who achieves at Level 3 approaches expectations for the assessed standards.</li> <li>In reading, the pattern exhibited by student responses indicates: <ul> <li>With very complex text, students demonstrate the</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul> <li>A student who achieves at Level 2 partially meets expectations for the assessed standards.</li> <li>In reading, the pattern exhibited by student responses indicates:</li> <li>With very complex text, students demonstrate the</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>ability to be <u>mostly accurate</u> when asking and/or answering questions, showing understanding of the text when referring to explicit details and examples in the text and when explaining inferences drawn from the text.</li> <li>With <u>moderately complex text</u>, students demonstrate the ability to be <u>mostly accurate</u> when asking and/or answering questions, showing understanding of the text when referring to explicit details and examples in the text and when explaining inferences drawn from the text.</li> <li>With <u>readily accessible text</u>, students demonstrate the ability to be <u>accurate</u> when asking and/or answering questions, showing <u>full</u> understanding of the text when referring to explicit details and examples in the text and when explaining inferences drawn from the text.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>ability to be <u>generally accurate</u> when asking and/or answering questions, showing <u>general</u> understanding of the text when referring to explicit details and examples in the text <u>and</u> when explaining inferences drawn from the text.</li> <li>With <u>moderately complex text</u>, students demonstrate the ability to be <u>generally accurate</u> when asking and/or answering questions, showing <u>general</u> understanding of the text when referring to explicit details and examples in the text and when explaining inferences drawn from the text.</li> <li>With <u>readily accessible text</u>, students demonstrate the ability to be <u>mostly accurate</u> when asking and/or answering questions, showing understanding of the text when referring to explicit details and examples in the text.</li> <li>With <u>readily accessible text</u>, students demonstrate the ability to be <u>mostly accurate</u> when asking and/or answering questions, showing understanding of the text when referring to explicit details and examples in the text and when explaining inferences drawn from the text.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>ability to ask and/or answer questions with minimal accuracy, showing minimal understanding of the text when referring to explicit details and examples in the text.</li> <li>With moderately complex text, students demonstrate the ability to be generally accurate when asking and/or answering questions, showing basic understanding of the text when referring to explicit details and examples in the text.</li> <li>With readily accessible text, students demonstrate the ability to be mostly accurate when asking and/or answering questions, showing understanding of the text when referring to explicit details and examples in the text.</li> <li>With readily accessible text, students demonstrate the ability to be mostly accurate when asking and/or answering questions, showing understanding of the text when referring to explicit details and examples in the text and when explaining inferences drawn from the text.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li><u>inability</u> to be accurate when asking and/or answering questions, showing <u>limited</u> understanding of the text when referring to explicit details and examples in the text.</li> <li>With <u>moderately complex text</u>, students demonstrate the ability to ask and/or answer questions with <u>minimal</u> accuracy, showing <u>minimal</u> understanding of the text when referring to explicit details and examples in the text.</li> <li>With <u>readily accessible text</u>, students demonstrate the ability to be <u>partially accurate</u> when asking and/or answering questions, showing <u>partial</u> understanding of the text when referring to explicit details and examples in the text and when explaining inferences drawn from the text.</li> </ul>

Writing Sub-Claim for Written Expression: Students produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to the task, purpose, and audience.

**EVIDENCES:** Students are expected to produce responses that demonstrate the skills and content listed in the evidence tables at the accuracy level and with the quality of evidence as described for students at each level.

Level 5 Level 4 Level 3 Level 2 A student who achieves at Level 5 exceeds A student who achieves at Level 3 approaches A student who achieves at Level 2 partially A student who achieves at Level 4 meets expectations for the assessed standards. meets expectations for the assessed standards. expectations for the assessed standards. expectations for the assessed standards. In writing, students address the prompts and provide In writing, students address the prompts and provide In writing, students address the prompts and provide In writing, students address the prompts and effective development of ideas, including when development of ideas, including when drawing evidence basic development of ideas, including when drawing provide minimal development of ideas, including drawing evidence from multiple sources, in the from multiple sources, while in the majority of instances evidence from multiple sources, while in the majority when drawing evidence from multiple sources, while majority of instances demonstrating purposeful and demonstrating purposeful and mostly controlled of instances demonstrating organization that in the majority of instances demonstrating controlled organization. organization. sometimes is controlled. organization that often is not controlled. The student: The student: The student: The student: • Develops topic and/or narrative elements in • Provides minimal development of the topic and/or • Provides effective development of the topic • Develops the topic and/or narrative elements and/or narrative elements, using reasoning, using reasoning, details, text- based evidence, manner that is general in its appropriateness to narrative elements and is, therefore, inappropriate details, text-based evidence, and/or description. and/or description. the task and purpose. to the task and purpose. • Develops topic and/or narrative elements in a • Develops topic and/or narrative elements in a Demonstrates some organization. • Demonstrates minimal organization. manner that is appropriate to the task and manner that is mostly appropriate to the task and • Includes minimal linking words and phrases, • Includes some linking words and phrases, descriptive words, and/or temporal words, limiting purpose. descriptive words, and/or temporal words, limiting purpose. • Demonstrates purposeful organization that • Demonstrates purposeful organization that is the clarity with which ideas are expressed. the clarity with which ideas are expressed. includes an introduction and/or conclusion. mostly controlled and may include an introduction and/or conclusion. • Correctly uses linking words and phrases, • Uses linking words and phrases, descriptive descriptive words, and/or temporal words to words, and/or temporal words to express express ideas with clarity. ideas with clarity.

Writing Sub-Claim for Knowledge of Language and Conventions: Students demonstrate knowledge of conventions and other important elements of language.

**EVIDENCES:** Students are expected to produce responses that demonstrate the skills and content listed in the evidence tables at the accuracy level and with the quality of evidence as described for students at each level.

Level 5	Level 4	Level 3	Level 2
A student who achieves at Level 5 exceeds	A student who achieves at Level 4 meets	A student who achieves at Level 3 approaches	A student who achieves at Level 2 partially meets
<b>expectations</b> for the assessed standards.	<b>expectations</b> for the assessed standards.	<b>expectations</b> for the assessed standards.	<b>expectations</b> for the assessed standards.
In <b>writing</b> , students demonstrate <u>full</u> command of the conventions of Standard English consistent with edited writing. There <u>may be some errors</u> in grammar and usage, but overall meaning is clear.	conventions of Standard English consistent with edited writing. There are <u>errors</u> in grammar and usage that <u>may</u> <u>occasionally impede</u> understanding.	In <b>writing</b> , students demonstrate <u>basic</u> command of the conventions of Standard English consistent with edited writing. There are <u>few patterns of errors</u> in grammar and usage that <u>impede</u> understanding, demonstrating <u>partial</u> control over language.	In <b>writing</b> , students demonstrate <u>minimal</u> command of the conventions of Standard English consistent with edited writing. There are <u>patterns of errors</u> in grammar and usage that <u>impede</u> understanding, demonstrating <u>minimal</u> control over language.

Performance Level	Level of Text Complexity <sup>1</sup>	Range of Accuracy <sup>2</sup>	Quality of Evidence <sup>3</sup>
5	Very Complex	Mostly Accurate	Explicit & Inferential
	Moderately Complex	Mostly Accurate	Explicit & Inferential
	Readily Accessible	Accurate	Explicit & Inferential
4	Very Complex	Generally Accurate	Explicit & Inferential
	Moderately Complex	Generally Accurate	Explicit & Inferential
	Readily Accessible	Mostly Accurate	Explicit & Inferential
3	Very Complex	Minimally Accurate	Explicit & Inferential
	Moderately Complex	Generally accurate	Explicit & Inferential
	Readily Accessible	Mostly Accurate	Explicit & Inferential
2	Very Complex	Inaccurate	Explicit & Inferential
	Moderately Complex	Minimally accurate	Explicit & Inferential
	Readily Accessible	Partially accurate	Explicit & Inferential

## 1. Text Complexity

The complexity framework reflects the importance of text complexity as it relates to the CCSS, which indicates that 50 percent of an item's complexity is linked to the complexity of the text(s) used as the stimulus for that item. Consequently, to determine students' performance levels, it is critical to identify the pattern of responses when students respond to items linked to passages with distinct text complexities. To this end, a clear and consistent model has been developed to define text complexity and the use of three text complexity levels has been determined: readily accessible, moderately complex, or very complex. For more information on text complexity, refer to the CCSS Appendix A (<u>http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy</u>) and Appendix B (<u>http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy</u>).

The two components for determining text complexity for **all** passages are as follows:

a. Two quantitative text complexity measures (Reading Maturity Metric and Lexile) will be used to analyze all reading passages to determine **an initial** recommendation for placement of a text into a grade band and subsequently a grade level.

b. Text Analysis Worksheets, one for informational text and one for literary text, are then used to determine qualitative measures. Trained evaluators use these worksheets to determine a recommendation for qualitative text complexity within the grade level, with each text defined as readily accessible, moderately complex, or very complex.

For multimedia texts, qualitative judgments from one or both of the "optional" categories in the Complexity Analysis Worksheet will be combined with judgments in the other categories to make a holistic determination of the complexity of the material.

#### 2. Range of Accuracy

There are three types of items on the summative assessments. For Evidence-Based Selected Response (EBSR) and Technology-Enhanced Constructed Response (TECR) items, the design is such that the items help contribute to an understanding of how accurately students comprehend text (demonstrate mastery of CCSS Reading Standards 2-10). Some of these items offer opportunities for students to receive partial credit based on the range of accuracy. For Prose-Constructed Response (PCR) items, draft scoring rubrics have been developed that include a Reading dimension to measure comprehension. Scores on the PCR items contribute to an evaluation of the degree to which a student can accurately comprehend a text.

The assessment Performance Level Descriptors (PLDs) describe five levels of accuracy at grades 3-8 that are determined using the reading data collected through EBSR, TECR, and PCR items: Accurate – The student is able to accurately state both the general ideas expressed in the text(s) and the key and supporting details. The response is complete, and the student demonstrates <u>full</u> understanding.

Mostly accurate – The student is able to accurately state most of the general ideas expressed in the text(s) and the key and supporting details, but the response is incomplete or contains minor inaccuracies. The student demonstrates understanding.

Generally accurate – The student is able to accurately state the gist of the text(s) but fails to accurately state the key and supporting details in the text or to connect such details to the overarching meaning of the text(s). The student demonstrates <u>basic</u> understanding.

Partially accurate – The student is able to accurately state the gist of the text(s) but is unable to state some of the key or supporting details with accuracy. The student is partially able to connect the specific details of the text to the overarching meaning(s) of the text. The student demonstrates partial understanding.

Minimally accurate – The student is unable to accurately state the gist of the text(s) but is able to minimally state some of the key or supporting details with accuracy. The student does not connect the specific details of the text to the overarching meaning(s) of the text. The student demonstrates <u>minimal</u> understanding.

Inaccurate – The student is unable to accurately state either the gist of the text or the key and supporting details evident in the text. The student demonstrates limited understanding.

### 3. Quality of Evidence

All items are designed to contribute to an understanding of how students "read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it" and "cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text" (CCSS Anchor Reading Standard 1). Some items offer opportunities for students to receive partial credit based on the quality of evidence provided. Students support their comprehension with explicit and/or inferential evidence:

Explicit evidence – Students show how the explicit words and phrases (details) from the text support statements made about the meaning of the text.

Inferential evidence – Students show how inferences drawn from the text support statements made about the meaning of the text.

Reading Sub-Claims	<b>Reading Literature</b> Students demonstrate comprehension and draw evidence from readings of grade-level, complex literary text.	<b>Reading Information</b> Students demonstrate comprehension and draw evidence from readings of grade-level, complex informational text.	Vocabulary Interpretation and Use Students use context to determine the meaning of words and phrases.
<b>EVIDENCES:</b> Students are expected to produce responses that demonstrate the skills and content listed in the evidence tables at the accuracy level and with the quality of evidence as described for students at each level.	See Literary Evidence Table	See Informational Evidence Table	See Vocabulary Evidence Table

#### Writing Sub-Claim for Written Expression: Students produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to the task, purpose, and audience.

**EVIDENCES:** Students are expected to produce responses that demonstrate the skills and content listed in the evidence tables at the accuracy level and with the quality of evidence as described for students at each level.

Level 5	Level 4	Level 3	Level 2
A student who achieves at <b>Level 5 exceeds</b>	A student who achieves at <b>Level 4 meets</b>	A student who achieves at Level 3 approaches expectations for the assessed standards.	A student who achieves at <b>Level 2 partially</b>
<b>expectations</b> for the assessed standards.	<b>expectations</b> for the assessed standards.		<b>meets expectations</b> for the assessed standards.
In <b>writing</b> , students address the prompts and provide	In <b>writing</b> , students address the prompts and provide	In <b>writing</b> , students address the prompts and provide	In <b>writing</b> , students address the prompts and
<u>effective</u> development of ideas, including when	development of ideas, including when drawing evidence	<u>basic</u> development of ideas, including when drawing	provide <u>minimal</u> development of ideas, including
drawing evidence from multiple sources, in the	from multiple sources, while in the majority of instances	evidence from multiple sources, while in the majority	when drawing evidence from multiple sources,
majority of instances demonstrating <u>purposeful</u> and	demonstrating <u>purposeful</u> and <u>mostly controlled</u>	of instances demonstrating organization that	while in the majority of instances demonstrating
<u>controlled</u> organization.	organization.	<u>sometimes is controlled</u> .	organization that <u>often is not controlled</u> .
<ul> <li>The student:</li> <li>Provides effective development of the topic and/or narrative elements, using reasoning, details, and/or description.</li> <li>Develops topic and/or narrative elements in a manner that is appropriate to the task, purpose, and audience.</li> <li>Demonstrates coherence, clarity, and cohesion and includes an introduction and/or conclusion.</li> <li>Attends to the norms and conventions of the discipline.</li> <li>Effectively draws evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.</li> <li>Effectively uses concrete words and phrases, sensory details, linking and transitional words, and/or domain-specific vocabulary to</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>The student:</li> <li>Develops the topic and/or narrative elements using reasoning, details, and/or description.</li> <li>Develops topic and/or narrative elements in a manner that is mostly appropriate to the task, purpose, and audience.</li> <li>Demonstrates general coherence, clarity, and cohesion and may or may not include an introduction and/or conclusion.</li> <li>Demonstrates general awareness of the norms and conventions of the discipline.</li> <li>Draws evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.</li> <li>Uses concrete words and phrases, sensory details, linking and transitional words, and/or domain-specific vocabulary to clarify ideas.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>The student:</li> <li>Develops the topic and/or narrative elements minimally by using some reasoning, details, and/or description.</li> <li>Develops topic and/or narrative elements in manner that is general in its appropriateness to the task, purpose, and audience.</li> <li>Demonstrates some coherence, clarity, and cohesion, omitting the introduction or conclusion.</li> <li>Demonstrates some awareness of the norms of the discipline.</li> <li>Draws partial evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.</li> <li>Includes some descriptions, sensory details, linking and transitional words, or domain-specific</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>The student:</li> <li>Provides minimal development of the topic and/or narrative elements and is, therefore, inappropriate to the task and purpose.</li> <li>Demonstrates minimal coherence, clarity, and cohesion.</li> <li>Demonstrates minimal awareness of the norms of the discipline.</li> <li>Draws minimal evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.</li> <li>Includes minimal descriptions, sensory details, linking and transitional words, or domain- specific vocabulary, limiting the overall clarity with which ideas are expressed.</li> </ul>

Writing Sub-Claim for Knowledge of Language and Conventions: Students demonstrate knowledge of conventions and other important elements of language.

**EVIDENCES:** Students are expected to produce responses that demonstrate the skills and content listed in the evidence tables at the accuracy level and with the quality of evidence as described for students at each level.

Level 5	Level 4	Level 3	Level 2
A student who achieves at Level 5 exceeds expectations for the assessed standards.	A student who achieves at Level 4 meets expectations for the assessed standards.	A student who achieves at Level 3 approaches expectations for the assessed standards.	A student who achieves at Level 2 partially meets expectations for the assessed standards.
writing. There <u>may be some errors</u> in grammar and	writing. There are <u>errors</u> in grammar and usage that <u>may</u>	writing. There are <u>few patterns of errors</u> in grammar and usage that <u>impede</u> understanding, demonstrating <u>partial</u>	In <b>writing</b> , students demonstrate <u>minimal</u> command of the conventions of Standard English consistent with edited writing. There are <u>patterns of errors</u> in grammar and usage that <u>impede</u> understanding, demonstrating <u>minima</u> l control over language.