# 2009 Reading Performance Level Descriptors (PLD)

**Reading, Grade 3**

| PL Label | PL Text |
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| Inconclusive | The Inconclusive student's responses are not evident or are inconsistent when presented with a variety of reading materials. |
| Exploring | The Exploring reader understands that letters are different from pictures/symbols/objects. The student identifies letters of the alphabet and basic sound/symbol relationships. The Exploring reader is beginning to identify letter sounds at the beginning of words, and match words that are read aloud to pictures. |
| Emerging | The Emerging reader communicates meaning by using pictures/symbols/objects. The student matches pictures to simple sight words and identifies letter sounds at the beginning and end of words. The Emerging reader is beginning to sort information and make predictions using pictures to show understanding of specific topic or details in a story. The student reads a sentence and identifies information from the sentence in a picture. |
| Developing | The Developing reader sorts information and communicates understanding of reading material by using pictures and phrases. The student identifies main ideas/events, plot, and setting by using simple vocabulary or pictures/symbols/objects. The Developing reader answers who, what, and where questions. The student makes predictions or draws conclusions using pictures. The Developing reader sounds out words, and reads high frequency and sight words. The student is beginning to understand prepositions. |
| Novice | The Novice reader relates information about a story using vocabulary, pictures/symbols/objects. The student identifies author's point of view or feelings about a person or event and communicates answers to who, what, where, when, and why questions. The Novice reader distinguishes between fact and opinion. The student makes predictions, inferences, or draws conclusions after reading a story. The Novice reader identifies/uses a variety of texts and resources (computer, dictionary, magazines, and newspapers) to answer questions about a reading. |

**Reading, Grade 4**

| PL Label | PL Text |
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| Inconclusive | The Inconclusive student's responses are not evident or are inconsistent when presented with a variety of reading materials. |
| Exploring | The Exploring reader understands that letters are different from pictures/symbols/objects. The student identifies letters of the alphabet (upper and lower case) and sound/symbol relationships. The Exploring reader identifies beginning and ending sounds in a word and matches words that are read aloud to pictures. |
| Emerging | The Emerging reader communicates meaning by using pictures/symbols/objects. The student matches pictures to sight words and identifies letter sounds at the beginning and end of words. The Emerging reader reads a sentence and identifies information from the sentence in a picture. The student sorts information and draws conclusions using pictures to show understanding of specific topic or details in a story. The Emerging reader is beginning to understand main ideas in stories. |
| Developing | The Developing reader sorts information and communicates understanding of reading material by using pictures and phrases. The student identifies main ideas/events, plot, and setting by using simple vocabulary or pictures/symbols/objects. The Developing reader answers who, what, and where questions. The student makes predictions or draws conclusions using pictures. The Developing reader sounds out words and reads high frequency and sight words. The student is beginning to understand prepositions. |
| Novice | The Novice reader relates information about a story using vocabulary, pictures/symbols/objects. The student identifies author's point of view or feelings about a person or event and communicates answers to who, what, where, when, and why questions. The Novice reader distinguishes between fact and opinion. The student makes predictions, inferences, or draws conclusions while reading. The Novice reader identifies/uses a variety of texts and resources (computer, dictionary, magazines, and |

| | newspapers) to answer questions about a reading. |
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### Reading, Grade 5

| PL Label | PL Text |
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| Inconclusive | The Inconclusive student's responses are not evident or are inconsistent when presented with a variety of reading materials. |
| Exploring | The Exploring reader recognizes that letters are different from pictures/symbols/objects. The student identifies letters of the alphabet (upper and lower case) and sound/symbol relationships. The Exploring reader identifies beginning and ending sounds in words and matches words that are read aloud to pictures. |
| Emerging | The Emerging reader communicates meaning by using pictures/symbols/objects. The student recognizes high frequency words and identifies letter sounds within words. The Emerging reader reads a sentence and identifies information from the sentence in a picture. The student sorts information and draws conclusions using pictures to show understanding of specific topic or details in a story. The Emerging reader is beginning to understand main ideas in stories. |
| Developing | The Developing reader sorts information and communicates understanding of reading material by using pictures and phrases. The student identifies main ideas/events, plot, and setting. The student answers who, what, and where questions. The Developing reader makes predictions or draws conclusions using pictures. The student is beginning to identify the problem/solution while reading. The Developing reader identifies resources (computer, book, dictionary, etc.) to gain meaning of new words/pictures/symbols/objects and recognizes similarities between different sources of information (computer and encyclopedia, etc.). The student sounds out words and reads high frequency and sight words. |
| Novice | The Novice reader relates information about a story using vocabulary, pictures/symbols/objects. The student describes details about main character such as appearance and personality. The Novice student identifies various types of texts such as fiction and non-fiction. The student distinguishes between fact/opinion, problem/solution, author's purpose, and figurative language. The Novice reader makes predictions, inferences, and draws conclusions while reading. The student uses resource/reference materials to gain meaning of new words, pictures, symbols, and objects. |

### Reading, Grade 6

| PL Label | PL Text |
|---|---|
| Inconclusive | The Inconclusive student's responses are not evident or are inconsistent when presented with a variety of reading materials. |
| Exploring | The Exploring reader identifies upper and lower case letters and recognizes that they are different from pictures/symbols/objects. The student identifies sound/symbol relationships and sounds at the beginning and end of words. The Exploring reader is beginning to sound out letters in words and match pictures to words. |
| Emerging | The Emerging reader communicates meaning by using pictures/symbols/objects. The student recognizes high frequency, sight words, and simple words in isolation, and identifies letter sounds within words. The Emerging reader relates details and main ideas of stories by using simple vocabulary, pictures/symbols/objects. The student determines the meaning of unknown words by using pictures. The Emerging reader is beginning to understand who, what, and where in a story and identifies the main characters of a story using pictures. |
| Developing | The Developing reader sorts information and communicates understanding of reading material by using words and phrases. The student identifies main ideas and details. The Developing reader makes predictions or draws conclusions using pictures. The student is beginning to identify the problem/solution |

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| | in a reading passage. The Developing reader uses context clues and decoding to determine unknown words. The student identifies the main character of a story by using words or other descriptors. The Developing reader identifies and uses resources (computer, book, dictionary, etc.) to gain meaning of new words/pictures/symbols/objects and recognizes similarities between different sources of information (computer and encyclopedia, etc.). The student sounds out words and reads high frequency words, sight words, and some sentences. |
| Novice | The Novice reader relates information about a story using vocabulary. The student identifies main ideas/events, plot, and setting. The Novice reader recognizes and identifies the difference between fiction and non-fiction. The student distinguishes between fact/opinion, problem/solution, author's purpose, and figurative language. The student uses context clues and other strategies to determine meaning of unknown words. The Novice reader makes predictions, inferences, or draws conclusions after reading a story. The student uses resource/reference materials to gain meaning of new words, pictures, symbols, and objects. The Novice student sounds out words and reads sentences. |

### Reading, Grade 7

| PL Label | PL Text |
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| Inconclusive | The Inconclusive student's responses are not evident or are inconsistent when presented with a variety of reading materials. |
| Exploring | The Exploring reader identifies upper and lower case letters and recognizes that they are different from pictures/symbols/objects. The student identifies sound/symbol relationships and sounds within a word. The Exploring reader sounds out words and matches pictures to words. |
| Emerging | The Emerging reader communicates meaning by using pictures/symbols/objects. The student recognizes high frequency words, sight words, and simple words in isolation, and identifies letter sounds within words. The Emerging reader relates details and main ideas of stories by using simple vocabulary, pictures/symbols/objects. The student determines the meaning of unknown words by using pictures. The Emerging reader is beginning to understand who, what, and where in a story and identifies the main characters of a story using pictures. |
| Developing | The Developing reader sorts information and communicates understanding of reading material by using words and phrases. The student identifies main ideas and details. The Developing reader makes predictions or draws conclusions using pictures. The student is beginning to identify the problem/solution in a reading passage. The Developing reader uses context clues and decoding to determine unknown words. The student identifies the main character of a story by using words or other descriptors. The Developing reader identifies and uses resources (computer, book, dictionary, etc.) to gain meaning of new words/pictures/symbols/objects and recognizes similarities between different sources of information (computer and encyclopedia, etc.). The student sounds out words and reads high frequency words, sight words, and some sentences. |
| Novice | The Novice reader relates information about a story using vocabulary, pictures/symbols/objects. The student identifies events, plot, and setting. The Novice reader recognizes the difference between fiction and non-fiction. The student distinguishes between fact/opinion, problem/solution, author's purpose, and figurative language. The Novice reader uses context clues and other strategies to determine meaning of unknown words. The student makes predictions, inferences, or draws conclusions while reading. The Novice reader uses resource/reference materials to gain meaning of new words, pictures, symbols, and objects. |

### Reading, Grade 8

| PL Label | PL Text |
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| Inconclusive | The Inconclusive student's responses are not evident or are inconsistent when presented with a variety of reading materials. |
| Exploring | The Exploring reader recognizes that letters are different from pictures/symbols/objects. The student |

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| | understands that pictures/symbols/objects convey meaning. The Exploring reader identifies sound/symbol relationships and consonant blends at the beginning and end of words. The student sounds out words and matches pictures to words. The Exploring reader is beginning to recognize high frequency words. |
| Emerging | The Emerging reader communicates meaning by using pictures/symbols/objects. The student identifies multiple sounds within a word and recognizes high frequency words. The Emerging reader relates details and main ideas of stories by using simple vocabulary, pictures/symbols/objects. The student determines the meaning of unknown words by using pictures, context clues and other strategies. The Emerging reader is beginning to make predictions and draw conclusions while reading. The student is beginning to identify/use basic resources (computer, book, dictionary, etc.) to gain meaning of new words/pictures/symbols/objects. |
| Developing | The Developing reader sorts information and communicates understanding of reading material by using words and phrases. The student makes predictions or draws conclusions while reading. The Developing reader identifies the problem/solution in a reading passage. The student identifies the main character of a story by using words or other descriptors. The Developing reader distinguishes between fact and opinion. The student uses context clues and decoding to determine unknown words. The Developing reader identifies and uses resources (computer, book, dictionary, etc.) to gain meaning of new words/pictures/symbols/objects and recognizes similarities between different sources of information (computer and encyclopedia, etc.). The student understands prepositions. |
| Novice | The Novice reader relates information about a story using vocabulary, pictures/symbols/objects. The student identifies patterns in a variety of literary genre. The Novice reader identifies literary features, such as author's purpose/point of view, and figurative language. The student understands information in quotation marks. The student uses context clues and other strategies (e.g., knowledge of prefixes, roots, and suffixes) to determine meaning of unknown words. The Novice reader makes predictions, inferences, or draws conclusions while reading. The student follows directions obtained through informational text. The Novice reader uses resource/reference materials to gain meaning of new words, pictures, symbols, and objects. |

**Reading, Grade 9**

| PL Label | PL Text |
|---|---|
| Inconclusive | The Inconclusive student's responses are not evident or are inconsistent when presented with a variety of reading materials. |
| Exploring | The Exploring reader recognizes that letters are different from pictures/symbols/objects. The student understands that pictures/symbols/objects convey meaning. The Exploring reader identifies sound/symbol relationships and consonant blends at the beginning and end of words. The student sounds out words and matches pictures to words. The Exploring reader is beginning to recognize high frequency words. |
| Emerging | The Emerging reader communicates meaning by using pictures/symbols/objects. The student identifies multiple sounds within a word and recognizes high frequency and sight words. The Emerging reader understands that sentences are made up of words. The student relates details and main ideas of stories by using vocabulary, pictures/symbols/objects. The Emerging reader determines the meaning of unknown words by using pictures, context clues and other strategies. The student is beginning to make predictions while reading. The Emerging reader identifies and is beginning to use basic resources (computer, book, dictionary, etc.) to gain meaning of new words/pictures/symbols/objects. |
| Developing | The Developing reader sorts information and communicates understanding of reading material by using words and phrases. The student makes predictions and draws conclusions while reading. The Developing reader identifies the problem/solution and the author's purpose. The student identifies the main character of a story by using words and descriptors. The Developing reader distinguishes between fact |

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| | and opinion. The student uses context clues and decoding to determine unknown words. The Developing reader is beginning to follow directions given in a text. The student identifies and uses resources (computer, book, dictionary, etc.) to gain meaning of new words/pictures/symbols/objects and recognizes similarities between different sources of information (computer and encyclopedia, etc.). The Developing reader understands prepositions. |
| Novice | The Novice reader relates information about a story using vocabulary, pictures/symbols/objects. The student identifies patterns in a variety of literary genre. The Novice reader identifies features such as author's purpose/point of view, figurative language, and information in quotation marks. The student uses context clues and other strategies (e.g., knowledge of prefixes, roots, and suffixes) to determine meaning of unknown words. The Novice reader makes predictions, inferences, and draws conclusions while reading. The student follows directions obtained through informational text. The Novice reader uses resource/reference materials to gain meaning of new words, pictures, symbols, and objects. |

### Reading, Grade 10

| PL Label | PL Text |
|---|---|
| Inconclusive | The Inconclusive student's responses are not evident or are inconsistent when presented with a variety of reading materials. |
| Exploring | The Exploring reader recognizes that letters are different from pictures/symbols/objects. The student understands that pictures/symbols/objects convey meaning. The Exploring reader identifies sound/symbol relationships and consonant blends at the beginning and end of words. The student sounds out words and matches pictures to words. The Exploring reader is beginning to recognize high frequency words. |
| Emerging | The Emerging reader communicates meaning by using pictures/symbols/objects. The student identifies multiple sounds within a word and recognizes high frequency and sight words. The Emerging reader understands that sentences are made up of words. The student relates details and main ideas of stories by using vocabulary, pictures/symbols/objects. The Emerging reader determines the meaning of unknown words by using pictures, context clues and other strategies. The student is beginning to make predictions while reading. The Emerging reader identifies and is beginning to use basic resources (computer, book, dictionary, etc.) to gain meaning of new words/pictures/symbols/objects. |
| Developing | The Developing reader sorts information and communicates understanding of reading material by using words and phrases. The student makes predictions and draws conclusions while reading. The Developing reader identifies the problem/solution and the author's purpose. The student identifies the main character of a story by using words and descriptors. The Developing reader distinguishes between fact and opinion. The student uses context clues and decoding to determine unknown words. The Developing reader is beginning to follow directions given in a text. The student identifies and uses resources (computer, book, dictionary, etc.) to gain meaning of new words/pictures/symbols/objects and recognizes similarities between different sources of information (computer and encyclopedia, etc.). The Developing reader understands prepositions. |
| Novice | The Novice reader relates information about a story using vocabulary, pictures/symbols/objects. The student identifies patterns in a variety of literary genre. The Novice reader identifies features such as author's purpose/point of view, figurative language, and information in quotation marks. The student uses context clues and other strategies (e.g., knowledge of prefixes, roots, and suffixes) to determine meaning of unknown words. The Novice reader makes predictions, inferences, and draws conclusions while reading. The student follows directions obtained through informational text. The Novice reader uses resource/reference materials to gain meaning of new words, pictures, symbols, and objects. |