Grade 3 Performance Level Descriptors

Nebraska Student-Centered Assessment System - Alternate English Language Arts (NSCAS-AAELA)

Developing	Established	Distinguished
Developing learners do not yet demonstrate proficiency in the knowledge and skills necessary at this grade level, as specified in the assessed Nebraska College- and Career-Ready Standards. These results provide evidence that the student may need additional support for academic success at the next grade level.	Established learners demonstrate proficiency in the knowledge and skills necessary at this grade level, as specified in the assessed Nebraska College- and Career-Ready Standards. These results provide evidence that the student will likely be ready for academic success at the next grade level.	Distinguished learners demonstrate advanced proficiency in the knowledge and skills necessary at this grade level, as specified in the assessed Nebraska College- and Career-Ready Standards. These results provide evidence that the student will likely be ready for academic success at the next grade level.
The student at this level • Determines the meaning of simple or familiar words using word structure (e.g., regular singular and/or plural words paired with illustrations). • Determines the meaning of simple or familiar words by using context clues (e.g., words paired with pictures) and text features (e.g., illustrations). • Identifies simple semantic relationships (i.e., synonyms). • Determines if an author's purpose is to entertain or inform when it is stated.	**The student at this level** • Determines the meaning of words using word structure (e.g., singular and/or plural words paired with illustrations; possessives, possessive pronouns). • Determines the meaning of words by using context clues (e.g., words paired with pictures and/or sentence clues) and text features (e.g., titles, illustrations). • Identifies semantic relationships (i.e., synonyms and antonyms). • Determines if an author's purpose is to entertain or inform.	**The student at this level** • Determines the meaning of uncommon words using word structure (e.g., singular and/or plural words paired with illustrations; possessives, possessive pronouns). • Determines the meaning of uncommon words by using context clues (e.g., word and sentence clues) and text features (e.g., titles, illustrations). • Identifies semantic relationships using uncommon words (i.e., synonyms and antonyms). • Determines if an author's purpose is to entertain or inform when it is implied or in a more complex text.

• Identifies basic elements of literary text (i.e., main character).	• Identifies and describes elements of literary text (i.e., main character and setting).	• Identifies and describes complex elements of literary text (i.e., main character, setting, and events).
• Recognizes simple or familiar literary devices used in literary text.	• Recognizes how literary devices are used purposefully in literary text (e.g., onomatopoeia, personification).	• Recognizes how literary devices are used purposefully in complex literary text (e.g., onomatopoeia, personification, simile).
• Identifies an idea from a simple literary text.	• Summarizes a literary text using key details.	• Summarizes a complex literary text using key details.
• Identifies an idea of a simple informational text.	• Identifies the main idea of an informational text.	• Identifies the main idea of an informational text by using key details.
• Locates information using basic text features (e.g., illustrations).	• Locates information using text features (e.g., titles, illustrations, tables of contents).	• Locates information using detailed text features (e.g., titles, illustrations, tables of contents, graphs).
• Recognizes simple literary and informational texts.	• Identifies a variety of literary and informational texts (e.g., calendars, schedules, lunch menus, textbooks, signs, stories, poems, dramas).	• Identifies a wide variety of literary and informational texts (e.g., calendars, schedules, lunch menus, textbooks, signs, stories, poems, dramas).
• Recognizes simple, similar topics in a literary text (e.g., events).	• Identifies similar topics in a literary text (e.g., character traits, events).	• Identifies similar topics in a complex literary text (e.g., two character traits, two events).
• Answers simple literal questions about the text.	• Answers literal questions using explicit evidence from the text.	• Answers complex literal questions using explicit evidence from the text.

• Identifies organizational patterns in a simple informational text (i.e., simple sequence). • Recognizes explicit evidence in an attempt to support a claim. • Edits basic writing for conventions of standard English (e.g., initial capitalization, punctuation limited to period). • Identifies evidence related to a simple idea found in the literary text. • Recognizes precise word choice for a mode.	• Identifies organizational patterns in an informational text (i.e., three-step sequence—first, next, and last). • Supports a claim or thesis using evidence. • Edits writing for conventions of standard English (e.g., initial and proper noun capitalization, punctuation limited to period and question mark). • Identifies evidence from the text that supports an idea found in the literary or informational text. • Identifies precise word choice for each mode.	• Identifies organizational patterns in a complex informational text (i.e., multistep sequence with or without sequencing words). • Supports a claim or thesis using relevant evidence effectively. • Edits complex writing for conventions of standard English (e.g., initial and proper noun capitalization, punctuation limited to period and question mark). • Identifies relevant evidence from the text that supports a complex idea found in the literary or informational text. • Identifies precise, appropriate word choice for a variety of modes.