

Reading Grade 8 Assessment Anchors and Eligible Content



Pennsylvania Department of Education

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ASSESSMENT ANCHOR**R8.A.1 Understand fiction appropriate to grade level.****ELIGIBLE CONTENT****R8.A.1.1** Identify and apply the meaning of vocabulary.**R8.A.1.1.1** Identify and/or apply meaning of multiple-meaning words used in text.**R8.A.1.1.2** Identify and/or apply a synonym or antonym of a word used in text.

Items that measure the Assessment Anchors will relate back to a reading passage. Students may reread the passage to help determine the best answer. See the item sampler for sample items.

A single vocabulary question may take two different styles: one that reprints the sentence from the passage or one that refers back to the word in the passage. Every multiple-choice stem on the test will be followed by four options.

Reference:

1.1.8.C Use meaning and knowledge of words (e.g., literal and figurative meanings, idioms, common foreign words) across content areas to expand reading vocabulary.

ASSESSMENT ANCHOR

R8.A.1 Understand fiction appropriate to grade level.

ELIGIBLE CONTENT

R8.A.1.2 Identify and apply word recognition skills.

R8.A.1.2.1 Identify how the meaning of a word is changed when an affix is added; identify the meaning of a word from the text with an affix.

R8.A.1.2.2 Define and/or apply how the meaning of words or phrases changes when using context clues given in explanatory sentences.

Items that measure the Assessment Anchors will relate back to a reading passage. Students may reread the passage to help determine the best answer. [See the item sampler for sample items.](#)

A single vocabulary question may take two different styles: one that reprints the sentence from the passage or one that refers back to the word in the passage. Every multiple-choice stem on the test will be followed by four options.

Reference:

1.1.8.B Use context clues, knowledge of root words as well as a glossary/thesaurus to decode and understand specialized vocabulary in the content areas during reading.

ASSESSMENT ANCHOR**R8.A.1 Understand fiction appropriate to grade level.****ELIGIBLE CONTENT****R8.A.1.3** Make inferences, draw conclusions, and make generalizations based on text.**R8.A.1.3.1** Make inferences and/or draw conclusions based on information from text.**R8.A.1.3.2** Cite evidence from text to support generalizations.

Items that measure the Assessment Anchors will relate back to a reading passage. Students may reread the passage to help determine the best answer. See the item sampler for sample items.

Every multiple-choice stem on the test will be followed by four options.

Reference:

- 1.1.8.D** Demonstrate comprehension / understanding before reading, during reading, and after reading on grade level texts through strategies such as comparing and contrasting texts, describing context, analyzing positions and arguments, and citing evidence in text.
- 1.2.8.A** Evaluate text organization and content to determine the author's purpose, **point of view**, and effectiveness according to the author's **theses**, accuracy, thoroughness, and patterns of logic.
- 1.2.8.D** Draw inferences and conclusions based on a variety of information sources, citing evidence from multiple texts to support answers.
- 1.3.8.A** Read, understand, and respond to works from various **genres** of literature.

ASSESSMENT ANCHOR**R8.A.1 Understand fiction appropriate to grade level.****ELIGIBLE CONTENT****R8.A.1.4** Identify and explain main ideas and relevant details.**R8.A.1.4.1** Identify and/or explain stated or implied main ideas and relevant supporting details from text.Note: Items may target specific paragraphs.

Items that measure the Assessment Anchors will relate back to a reading passage. Students may reread the passage to help determine the best answer. See the item sampler for sample items.

Every multiple-choice stem on the test will be followed by four options.

Reference:

1.1.8.D Demonstrate comprehension / understanding before reading, during reading, and after reading on grade level texts through strategies such as comparing and contrasting texts, describing context, analyzing positions and arguments, and citing evidence in text.

ASSESSMENT ANCHOR**R8.A.1 Understand fiction appropriate to grade level.****ELIGIBLE CONTENT****R8.A.1.5** Summarize a fictional text as a whole.**R8.A.1.5.1** Summarize the key details and events of a fictional text as a whole.

Items that measure the Assessment Anchors will relate back to a reading passage. Students may reread the passage to help determine the best answer. [See the item sampler for sample items.](#)

Every multiple-choice stem on the test will be followed by four options.

Reference:

1.1.8.D Demonstrate comprehension / understanding before reading, during reading, and after reading on grade level texts through strategies such as comparing and contrasting texts, describing context, analyzing positions and arguments, and citing evidence in text.

ASSESSMENT ANCHOR**R8.A.1 Understand fiction appropriate to grade level.****ELIGIBLE CONTENT****R8.A.1.6** Identify, describe, and analyze genre of text.**R8.A.1.6.1** Identify and/or analyze the author's intended purpose of text.**R8.A.1.6.2** Explain, describe, and/or analyze examples of text that support the author's intended purpose.

Items that measure the Assessment Anchors will relate back to a reading passage. Students may reread the passage to help determine the best answer. See the item sampler for sample items.

Every multiple-choice stem on the test will be followed by four options.

Reference:

- 1.1.8.A** Apply appropriate strategies to interpret and analyze author's purpose, using grade level text.
- 1.3.8.B** Identify and analyze the characteristics of poetry, drama, and fiction and explain the appropriateness of literary forms chosen by an author for a specific purpose

ASSESSMENT ANCHOR

R8.A.2 Understand nonfiction appropriate to grade level.

ELIGIBLE CONTENT

R8.A.2.1 Identify and apply the meaning of vocabulary in nonfiction.

R8.A.2.1.1 Identify and/or apply meaning of multiple-meaning words used in text.

R8.A.2.1.2 Identify and/or apply meaning of content-specific words used in text.

Items that measure these Assessment Anchors will relate back to a reading passage. Students may reread the passage to help determine the best answer. [See the item sampler for sample items.](#)

A single vocabulary question may take two different styles: one that reprints the sentence from the passage or one that refers back to the word in the passage. Every multiple-choice stem on the test will be followed by four options.

Reference:

1.1.8.C Use meaning and knowledge of words (e.g., literal and figurative meanings, idioms, common foreign words) across content areas to expand reading vocabulary.

ASSESSMENT ANCHOR**R8.A.2 Understand nonfiction appropriate to grade level.****ELIGIBLE CONTENT****R8.A.2.2** Identify and apply word recognition skills.**R8.A.2.2.1** Identify and apply how the meaning of a word is changed when an affix is added; identify and apply the meaning of a word from the text with an affix.**R8.A.2.2.2** Define and/or apply how the meaning of words or phrases changes when using context clues given in explanatory sentences.

Items that measure these Assessment Anchors will relate back to a reading passage. Students may reread the passage to help determine the best answer. [See the item sampler for sample items.](#)

A single vocabulary question may take two different styles: one that reprints the sentence from the passage or one that simply refers back to the word in the passage. Every multiple-choice stem on the test will be followed by four options.

Reference:

1.1.8.B Use context clues, knowledge of root words as well as a glossary/thesaurus to decode and understand specialized vocabulary in the content areas during reading.

ASSESSMENT ANCHOR**R8.A.2 Understand nonfiction appropriate to grade level.****ELIGIBLE CONTENT****R8.A.2.3** Make inferences, draw conclusions, and make generalizations based on text.**R8.A.2.3.1** Make inferences and/or draw conclusions based on information from text.**R8.A.2.3.2** Cite evidence from text to support generalizations.

Items that measure these Assessment Anchors will relate back to a reading passage. Students may reread the passage to help determine the best answer. [See the item sampler for sample items.](#)

Every multiple-choice stem on the test will be followed by four options.

Reference:

- 1.1.8.D** Demonstrate comprehension / understanding before reading, during reading, and after reading on grade level texts through strategies such as comparing and contrasting texts, describing context, analyzing positions and arguments, and citing evidence in text.
- 1.2.8.E** Read, understand, and respond to essential content of text and documents in all academic areas.
- 1.3.8.A** Read, understand, and respond to works from various **genres** of literature.

ASSESSMENT ANCHOR**R8.A.2 Understand nonfiction appropriate to grade level.****ELIGIBLE CONTENT****R8.A.2.4** Identify and explain main ideas and relevant details.**R8.A.2.4.1** Identify and/or explain stated or implied main ideas and relevant supporting details from text.Note: Items may target specific paragraphs.

Items that measure these Assessment Anchors will relate back to a reading passage. Students may reread the passage to help determine the best answer. [See the item sampler for sample items.](#)

Every multiple-choice stem on the test will be followed by four options.

Reference:

1.1.8.D Demonstrate comprehension / understanding before reading, during reading, and after reading on grade level texts through strategies such as comparing and contrasting texts, describing context, analyzing positions and arguments, and citing evidence in text.

ASSESSMENT ANCHOR**R8.A.2 Understand nonfiction appropriate to grade level.****ELIGIBLE CONTENT****R8.A.2.5** Summarize a nonfictional text as a whole.**R8.A.2.5.1** Summarize the major points, processes, and/or events of a nonfictional text as a whole.

Items that measure these Assessment Anchors will relate back to a reading passage. Students may reread the passage to help determine the best answer. See the item sampler for sample items.

Every multiple-choice stem on the test will be followed by four options.

Reference:

1.1.8.D Demonstrate comprehension / understanding before reading, during reading, and after reading on grade level texts through strategies such as comparing and contrasting texts, describing context, analyzing positions and arguments, and citing evidence in text.

ASSESSMENT ANCHOR**R8.A.2 Understand nonfiction appropriate to grade level.****ELIGIBLE CONTENT****R8.A.2.6** Identify, describe, and analyze genre of text.**R8.A.2.6.1** Identify and/or describe the author's intended purpose of text.**R8.A.2.6.2** Explain, describe, and/or analyze examples of text that support the author's intended purpose.

Items that measure these Assessment Anchors will relate back to a reading passage. Students may reread the passage to help determine the best answer. See the item sampler for sample items.

Every multiple-choice stem on the test will be followed by four options.

Reference:

1.1.8.A Apply appropriate strategies to interpret and analyze author's purpose, using grade level text.

ASSESSMENT ANCHOR

R8.B.1 Understand components within and between texts.

R8.B.1.1 Interpret, compare, describe, analyze, and evaluate components of fiction and literary nonfiction.

ELIGIBLE CONTENT

R8.B.1.1.1 Explain, interpret, compare, describe, analyze, and/or evaluate the relationships within fiction and literary nonfiction.

Character (may also be called narrator, speaker, subject of a biography):

Explain, interpret, compare, describe, analyze, and/or evaluate character actions, motives, dialogue, emotions/feelings, traits, and relationships among characters within fictional and literary nonfictional text.

Explain, interpret, compare, describe, analyze, and/or evaluate the relationship between characters and other components of text.

Setting:

Explain, interpret, compare, describe, analyze, and/or evaluate the setting of fiction or literary nonfiction.

Explain, interpret, compare, describe, analyze, and/or evaluate the relationship between setting and other components of text.

Plot (may also be called action):

Explain, interpret, compare, describe, analyze, and/or evaluate elements of the plot (conflict, rising action, climax and/or resolution).

Explain, interpret, compare, describe, analyze, and/or evaluate the relationship between elements of the plot and other components of text.

Theme:

Explain, interpret, compare, describe analyze, and/or evaluate the theme of fiction or literary nonfiction.

Explain, interpret, compare, describe analyze, and/or evaluate the relationship between the theme and other components of text.

Items that measure these Assessment Anchors will relate back to a reading passage. Students may reread the passage to help determine the best answer. [See the item sampler for sample items.](#)

Every multiple-choice stem on the test will be followed by four options.

Reference:

- 1.3.8.C** Analyze the use of **literary elements** by an author including **characterization**, setting, plot, **theme**, **point of view**, **tone**, and **style**.

ASSESSMENT ANCHOR**R8.B.1 Understand components within and between texts.****ELIGIBLE CONTENT****R8.B.1.2** Make connections between texts.**R8.B.1.2.1** Explain, interpret, compare, describe, analyze, and/or evaluate connections between texts.

Items that measure these Assessment Anchors will relate back to a reading passage. Students may reread the passage to help determine the best answer. See the item sampler for sample items.

Every multiple-choice stem on the test will be followed by four options.

Reference:

1.2.8.D Draw inferences and conclusions based on a variety of information sources, citing evidence from multiple texts to support answers.

ASSESSMENT ANCHOR**R8.B.2 Understand literary devices in fictional and nonfictional text.****ELIGIBLE CONTENT****R8.B.2.1** Identify, interpret, describe, and analyze figurative language in fiction and nonfiction.**R8.B.2.1.1** Identify, explain, interpret, describe, and/or analyze examples of personification, simile, metaphor, hyperbole, and imagery in text.**R8.B.2.1.2** Identify, explain, interpret, describe, and/or analyze the author's purpose for and effectiveness at using figurative language in text.

Items that measure these Assessment Anchors will relate back to a reading passage. Students may reread the passage to help determine the best answer. See the item sampler for sample items.

Every multiple-choice stem on the test will be followed by four options.

Reference:

1.3.8.D Analyze the effect of various **literary devices** (e.g., **personification, simile, alliteration, symbolism, metaphor, hyperbole, imagery**).

ASSESSMENT ANCHOR**R8.B.2 Understand literary devices in fictional and nonfictional text.****ELIGIBLE CONTENT**

R8.B.2.2 Identify, interpret, describe, and analyze the point of view of the narrator in fictional and nonfictional text.

R8.B.2.2.1 Identify, explain, interpret, describe, and/or analyze point of view of the narrator as first person or third person point of view.

R8.B.2.2.2 Explain, interpret, describe, and/or analyze the effectiveness of the point of view used by the author.

Items that measure these Assessment Anchors will relate back to a reading passage. Students may reread the passage to help determine the best answer. See the item sampler for sample items.

Every multiple-choice stem on the test will be followed by four options.

Reference:

1.3.8.C Analyze the use of **literary elements** by an author including **characterization**, setting, plot, **theme**, **point of view**, **tone**, and **style**.

ASSESSMENT ANCHOR**R8.B.3 Understand concepts and organization of nonfictional text.****ELIGIBLE CONTENT**

R8.B.3.1 Interpret, describe, and analyze the characteristics and uses of facts and opinions in nonfictional text.

R8.B.3.1.1 Explain, interpret, describe, and/or analyze the use of facts and opinions to make a point or construct an argument in nonfictional text.

Items that measure these Assessment Anchors will relate back to a reading passage. Students may reread the passage to help determine the best answer. See the item sampler for sample items.

Every multiple-choice stem on the test will be followed by four options.

Reference:

- 1.2.8.B** Differentiate fact from opinion utilizing resources that go beyond traditional texts (e.g., newspapers, periodicals, consumer and public documents, electronic media).
- 1.2.8.C** Distinguish between essential and nonessential information across a texts to a variety of media; identify **bias** and **propaganda** where present.

ASSESSMENT ANCHOR**R8.B.3 Understand concepts and organization of nonfictional text.****ELIGIBLE CONTENT**

R8.B.3.2 Distinguish between essential and nonessential information within or between texts.

R8.B.3.2.1 Identify, explain, interpret, describe, and/or analyze bias and propaganda techniques in nonfictional text.

Items that measure these Assessment Anchors will relate back to a reading passage. Students may reread the passage to help determine the best answer. [See the item sampler for sample items.](#)

Every multiple-choice stem on the test will be followed by four options.

Reference:

1.2.8.C Distinguish between essential and nonessential information across a texts to a variety of media; identify **bias** and **propaganda** where present.

ASSESSMENT ANCHOR**R8.B.3 Understand concepts and organization of nonfictional text.****ELIGIBLE CONTENT**

R8.B.3.3 Identify, compare, explain, interpret, describe, and analyze how text organization clarifies meaning of nonfictional text.

R8.B.3.3.1 Identify, explain, interpret, and/or analyze text organization, including sequence, question/answer, comparison/contrast, cause/effect or problem/solution.

R8.B.3.3.2 Identify content that would fit in a specific section of text.

R8.B.3.3.3 Interpret graphics and charts and/or make connections between text and the content of graphics and charts.

R8.B.3.3.4 Identify, explain, compare, interpret, describe, and/or analyze the sequence of steps in a list of directions.

Items that measure these Assessment Anchors will relate back to a reading passage. Students may reread the passage to help determine the best answer. See the item sampler for sample items.

Every multiple-choice stem on the test will be followed by four options.

Reference:

1.2.8.A Evaluate text organization and content to determine the author's purpose, **point of view**, and effectiveness according to the author's **theses**, accuracy, thoroughness, and patterns of logic.