

Levels of Complexity

Targets for Instruction and Assessment

Level 1 – Low Complexity

Involves recall, observing and representing basic facts that demonstrate a surface level of understanding of text. Usually requires a student to perform a one step process by:

- ▣ Locating details
- ▣ Finding details on charts, graphs, or diagrams
- ▣ Recognizing chronological order
- ▣ Identifying correct meaning of words in explicit context
- ▣ Identifying figurative language in text

Level 2 – Moderate Complexity

Involves summarizing, inferring, classifying, comparing, gathering information, explaining, describing, while demonstrating a more complex level of understanding. Usually requires a student to perform a 2-step process by:

- ▣ Using context clues to identify the meanings of unfamiliar words
- ▣ Interpreting the information in graphs, charts, and diagrams
- ▣ Recognizing patterns of organization
- ▣ Comparing meanings
- ▣ Determining how details support main idea
- ▣ Determining author's main purpose or point of view
- ▣ Demonstrating an understanding of plot development
- ▣ Identifying cause and effect relationships
- ▣ Summarizing the major points of the text
- ▣ Identifying similarities and differences
- ▣ Determine fact or opinion

Level 3 – High Complexity

Involves higher order thinking, conceptual understanding, generalizing abstract reasoning, theme identification and complex inferencing within and across text. This level requires a student to perform multiple steps by:

- ▣ Analyzing the use of figurative language in text
- ▣ Showing how graphs, charts and diagrams contribute to a text
- ▣ Analyzing in depth similarities and differences
- ▣ Analyzing cause and effect relationships
- ▣ Determining author's purpose and/or point of view and how it affects the text
- ▣ Describing and illustrating how common themes are found across texts
- ▣ Applying text-based information to a similar situation
- ▣ Identifying and evaluating devices of persuasion
- ▣ Evaluating strong vs. weak argument
- ▣ Describing and analyzing the characteristics of various types of text