

## **Grade 9 Reading Proficiency Level Descriptors**

### **Advanced**

The student determines meaning of words in context including precise or technical vocabulary; evaluates the power, logic, reasonableness and audience appeal of arguments (e.g., emotional effect of specific word choices and sentence structures, well-supported logical arguments); evaluates the intended effects of the author's use of conventions and techniques of genres on the reader (e.g., making inferences and judgments about ironic or hyperbolic statements, identifying impact of rich imagery, identifying multiple levels of meaning); and uses evidence from text to analyze and evaluate the author's intent for utilizing literary elements and devices and tone.

### **Proficient**

The student determines meaning of words in context using derivational roots and affixes; identifies complex relationships among words; makes inferences and draws conclusions across increasingly complex texts; assesses the validity of an author's ideas; explains main idea in complex narrative and informative text, makes generalizations, and assertions based on text; interprets multi-step directions to solve complex problems; compares and contrasts literary elements and devices to analyze text; analyzes, evaluates and makes logical predictions about the importance of plot, setting, character, point of view, theme, and tone to the text; identifies author's purpose; and makes thematic connections between texts.

### **Below Proficient**

The student determines meaning of content-specific vocabulary, words with multiple meanings, and precise vocabulary; summarizes main ideas or events from text; compares and contrasts main ideas or concepts between related texts; and locates evidence within a text to identify an author's message or theme.

### **Far Below Proficient**

There is a significant need for additional instructional opportunities to achieve the proficient level.