

Level	Basic	Proficient	Advanced
Policy PLD	Marginal academic performance, work approaching, but not yet reaching, satisfactory performance, indicating partial understanding and limited display of the knowledge and skills included in the Wyoming Content and Performance Standards.	Satisfactory academic performance indicating a solid understanding and display of the knowledge and skills included in the Wyoming Content and Performance Standards.	Superior academic performance indicating an in-depth understanding and exemplary display of the knowledge and skills included in the Wyoming Content and Performance Standards.
Text Complexity Statements	The basic student demonstrates partial ability to independently read and comprehend a variety of literary and informational text of low-to-moderate complexity. The student reads closely in order to use minimal textual evidence to demonstrate critical thinking.	The proficient student demonstrates adequate ability to independently read and comprehend a variety of literary and informational text of moderate-to-high complexity. The student reads closely and analytically in order to use textual evidence to demonstrate critical thinking.	The advanced student demonstrates thorough ability to independently read and comprehend a variety of literary and informational text of high complexity. The student reads closely and analytically and uses textual evidence effectively to demonstrate complex critical thinking.
Reading Literature (PAWS)			
Key Ideas and Details			
Key Details	The basic student considers evidence but cites that which supports analysis of what the text says explicitly and when drawing sentence- or paragraph-level inferences from text. RL 8.1	The proficient student considers all evidence but cites that which most strongly supports analysis of what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from text. RL 8.1	The advanced student considers all evidence but cites that which most strongly supports analysis of what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences and conclusions based on multiple paragraphs or the full text. RL 8.1
Central Ideas	The basic student analyzes how a stated theme or central idea develops over the course of the text, including how it relates to the characters, setting, and plot. RL 8.2	The proficient student determines how a theme or central idea develops over the course of the text, including how it relates to the characters, setting, and plot. RL 8.2	The advanced student analyzes how an implied theme or central idea develops over the course of the text, including how it relates to the characters, setting, and plot. RL 8.2
Central Ideas	The basic student identifies dialogue or incidents that advance the plot, reveal aspects of characters, or provoke a decision (e.g., explain how an author shows how a character feels, explain how or why an event causes a problem); objectively summarizes simple text. RL 8.3	The proficient student determines how dialogue or incidents advance the plot, reveal aspects of characters, or provoke a decision; objectively summarizes text. RL 8.3	The advanced student analyzes how dialogue or incidents advance a complex plot or reveal subtle aspects of characters or provoke a decision (e.g., analyze plot shifts, evaluate how a character changes over the course of the text); objectively summarizes text. RL 8.3

		Craft and Structure	
Word Meanings and Language Use	The basic student determines the meaning of simple words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative and connotative meanings, and analyzes the impact of word choice on meaning and tone, including analogies or allusions to other texts. RL 8.4	The proficient student determines the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative and connotative meanings, and analyzes the impact of word choice on meaning and tone, including analogies or allusions to other texts. RL 8.4	The advanced student determines the meaning of complex words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative and connotative meanings, and analyzes the impact of word choice on meaning and tone, including analogies or allusions to other texts. RL 8.4
Text Structures and Features/Analysis Within or Across Texts	The basic student compares and contrasts the simple structure, features, and formats of two or more texts and analyzes how the different structure of each text contributes to its meaning and style. RL 8.5	The proficient student compares and contrasts the structure, features, and formats of two or more texts and analyzes how the different structure of each text contributes to its meaning and style. RL 8.5	The advanced student compares and contrasts the complex structure, features, and formats of two or more texts and analyzes how the different structure of each text contributes to its meaning and style. RL 8.5
Reasoning and Evidence	The basic student identifies how differences in the points of view of the character, audience, or reader create effects (e.g., humor, suspense created through dramatic irony). RL 8.6	The proficient student analyzes how differences in the points of view of the character, audience, or reader create effects (e.g., humor, suspense created through dramatic irony). RL 8.6	The advanced student analyzes how differences in the points of view of the character, audience, or reader create multiple effects (e.g., humor, suspense created through dramatic irony). RL 8.6
		Reading Informational Text (PAWS)	
		Key Ideas and Details	
Key Details	The basic student considers evidence but cites that which supports analysis of what the text says explicitly and when drawing sentence- or paragraph-level inferences from text. RI 8.1	The proficient student considers all evidence but cites that which most strongly supports analysis of what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from text. RI 8.1	The advanced student considers all evidence but cites that which most strongly supports analysis of what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences and conclusions based on multiple paragraphs or the full text. RI 8.1
Central Ideas	The basic student determines the development of a stated central idea over the course of the text, including its relationship to other supporting ideas within the text; summarizes the text. RI 8.2	The proficient student analyzes the development of a central idea over the course of the text, including its relationship to other supporting ideas within the text; objectively summarizes the text. RI 8.2	The advanced student analyzes the development of a stated or implied central idea over the course of the text, including its relationship to other supporting ideas within the text; objectively summarizes the text. RI 8.2
Analysis Within or Across Texts	The basic student analyzes simple connections among and distinctions between individuals, events, or ideas in a text, including comparisons, analogies, or categories. RI 8.3	The proficient student analyzes connections among and distinctions between individuals, events, or ideas in a text, including comparisons, analogies, or categories. RI 8.3	The advanced student analyzes complex connections among and distinctions between individuals, events, or ideas in a text, including comparisons, analogies, or categories. RI 8.3

		Craft and Structure	
Language Use	The basic student determines the meaning of simple words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative, connotative, and technical meanings; analyzes the impact of word choice on meaning and tone, including analogies and allusions to other texts. RI 8.4	The proficient student determines the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative, connotative, and technical meanings; analyzes the impact of word choice on meaning and tone, including analogies and allusions to other texts. RI 8.4	The advanced student determines the intended meaning of complex words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative, connotative, and technical meanings; analyzes the impact of word choice on meaning and tone, including analogies and allusions to other texts. RI 8.4
Text Structures and Features	The basic student analyzes the simple structure of a specific paragraph and the role/impact of sentences in developing and refining basic concepts. RI 8.5	The proficient student analyzes the structure of a specific paragraph and the role/impact of sentences in developing and refining key concepts. RI 8.5	The advanced student analyzes the complex structure of a specific paragraph and the role/impact of sentences in developing and refining advanced concepts. RI 8.5
Reasoning and Evidence	The basic student uses limited textual evidence to identify the author’s point of view or purpose and analyzes how the author acknowledges/responds to conflicting evidence or viewpoints. RI 8.6	The proficient student uses textual evidence to determine the author’s point of view or purpose and analyzes how the author acknowledges/responds to conflicting evidence or viewpoints. RI 8.6	The advanced student uses textual evidence to analyze the author’s point of view or purpose, and analyzes how the author acknowledges/responds to conflicting evidence or viewpoints. RI 8.6
		Integration of Knowledge and ideas (PAWS)	
Analysis Within or Across Texts	The basic student provides a limited analysis of how a modern work of fiction draws upon themes, patterns of events, or character types from myths, traditional stories, or religious works, including describing how the material is rendered new. RI 8.9	The proficient student provides an analysis of how a modern work of fiction draws upon themes, patterns of events, or character types from myths, traditional stories, or religious works, including describing how the material is rendered new. RI 8.9	The advanced student provides an analysis of how multiple modern works of fiction draws upon themes, patterns of events, or character types from myths, traditional stories, or religious works, including describing how the material is rendered new. RI 8.9
Reasoning and Evidence	The basic student traces and evaluates simple arguments and claims in a text, assessing whether the reasoning is sound and supporting evidence is relevant and sufficient; recognizes irrelevant information. RI 8.8	The proficient student traces and evaluates arguments and claims in a text, assessing whether the reasoning is sound and supporting evidence is relevant and sufficient; recognizes irrelevant information. RI 8.8	The advanced student traces and evaluates complex arguments and claims in a text, assessing whether the reasoning is sound and supporting evidence is relevant and sufficient; recognizes irrelevant information. RI 8.8
Analysis Within or Across Texts	The basic student analyzes a situation of conflicting information in two or more texts on the same simple topic to identify where the texts disagree on matters of fact or interpretation. RI 8.9	The proficient student analyzes a situation of conflicting information in two or more texts on the same topic to identify where the texts disagree on matters of fact or interpretation. RI 8.9	The advanced student analyzes a situation of conflicting information in two or more texts on the same complex topic to identify where the texts disagree on matters of fact or complex interpretation. RI 8.9

Language (PAWS)			
Language Use	The basic student demonstrates limited use of context clues and reference materials, as well as grade-appropriate Greek and Latin affixes and roots, to help determine the meanings of simple words and phrases, to find the pronunciation of a word, and to clarify parts of speech. L 8.4 a, b, and c	The proficient student demonstrates use of context clues and reference materials, as well as grade-appropriate Greek and Latin affixes and roots, to help determine the meanings of words and phrases, to find the pronunciation of a word, and to clarify parts of speech. L 8.4 a, b, and c	The advanced student demonstrates thorough use of context clues and reference materials, as well as grade-appropriate Greek and Latin affixes and roots, to help determine the meanings of complex words and phrases, to find the pronunciation of a word, and to clarify parts of speech. L 8.4 a, b, and c
Language Use/ Language and Vocabulary Use	The basic student determines the meaning of simple academic and domain-specific words, interprets simple figures of speech in context, uses relationships between words as a basis for understanding, and distinguishes among the obvious connotations of words with similar denotations or shades of meaning (e.g., stingy, scrimping, economical, thrifty). L 8.5 and L 8.5 a, b, and c, and L 8.6	The proficient student determines the meaning of general academic and domain-specific words, interprets figures of speech in context, uses relationships between words as a basis for understanding, and distinguishes among the connotations of words with similar denotations or shades of meaning (e.g., stingy, scrimping, economical, thrifty). L 8.5 and L 8.5 a, b, and c, and L 8.6	The advanced student determines the meaning of complex academic and domain-specific words, interprets complex figures of speech in context, uses relationships between words as a basis for understanding, and distinguishes among the implied connotations of words with similar denotations or shades of meaning (e.g., stingy, scrimping, economical, thrifty). L 8.5 and L 8.5 a, b, and c, and L 8.6
Writing (SAWS)			
N/A for Grade 8			