State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR®)
Performance Level Descriptors
English I

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When reading texts of increasing complexity,

When reading texts of increasing complexity, students achieving Approaches Grade Level Performance can

- Distinguish between the denotative and connotative meanings of words using context and reference materials
- Recognize how literal and figurative language conveys meaning in texts
- Demonstrate a basic understanding of literary texts by recognizing elements such as theme and plot development
- Demonstrate a basic understanding of informational and argumentative texts by recognizing characteristics and structural elements such as key ideas, supporting evidence, and print and graphic features
- Recognize the use of literary devices and their meaning in a text
- Make logical connections and comparisons between texts representing similar or different genres
- Make simple inferences and predictions based on explicit and implicit text evidence
- Write basic essays that are generally suited to the writing task, with a partial commoe