# Grade 6 Performance Level Descriptors

**Nebraska Student-Centered Assessment System - Alternate English Language Arts (NSCAS-AAELA)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Developing</th>
<th>Established</th>
<th>Distinguished</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Developing learners do not yet demonstrate proficiency in the knowledge and skills necessary at this grade level, as specified in the assessed Nebraska College- and Career-Ready Standards. These results provide evidence that the student may need additional support for academic success at the next grade level.</td>
<td>Established learners demonstrate proficiency in the knowledge and skills necessary at this grade level, as specified in the assessed Nebraska College- and Career-Ready Standards. These results provide evidence that the student will likely be ready for academic success at the next grade level.</td>
<td>Distinguished learners demonstrate advanced proficiency in the knowledge and skills necessary at this grade level, as specified in the assessed Nebraska College- and Career-Ready Standards. These results provide evidence that the student will likely be ready for academic success at the next grade level.</td>
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</table>

### The student at this level

- Determines the meaning of simple words using common roots and the words that result when basic affixes are added.
- Determines the meaning of simple words using context clues (e.g., word clues) and text features (e.g., titles, illustrations).
- Identifies simple semantic relationships (i.e., synonyms and antonyms).

### The student at this level

- Determines the meaning of words using roots and the words that result when affixes are added.
- Determines the meaning of words using context clues (e.g., word, phrase, and/or sentence clues) and text features (e.g., titles, illustrations, tables of contents, charts, schedules, calendars).
- Identifies semantic relationships (i.e., synonyms, antonyms, homophones, and homographs).

### The student at this level

- Determines the meaning of words using uncommon and/or content-specific roots and affixes and the words that result.
- Determines the meaning of uncommon words using context clues (e.g., word, phrase, and/or sentence clues) and text features (e.g., titles, illustrations, tables of contents, charts, schedules, calendars).
- Identifies semantic relationships using uncommon words (i.e., synonyms, antonyms, homophones, and homographs).
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Identifies if an author’s purpose is to entertain or inform when it is stated.</td>
<td>- Identifies if an author’s purpose is to entertain or inform.</td>
<td>- Identifies if an author’s purpose is to entertain or inform when it is implied or in a more complex text.</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Identifies basic elements of literary text (e.g., character[s], setting).</td>
<td>- Identifies and describes elements of literary text (e.g., character[s], setting, conflict).</td>
<td>- Identifies and describes complex elements of literary text (e.g., character[s], setting, conflict, story sequence).</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Recognizes literary devices found in simple or familiar literary text (e.g., onomatopoeia, personification).</td>
<td>- Recognizes how literary devices are used purposefully in literary text (e.g., onomatopoeia, personification, alliteration, simile).</td>
<td>- Recognizes how literary devices are used purposefully in complex literary text (e.g., onomatopoeia, personification, alliteration, simile, metaphor).</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Identifies an idea from a simple literary text.</td>
<td>- Summarizes a literary text using key details.</td>
<td>- Summarizes a complex literary text using relevant key details in sequential order.</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Identifies an idea from a simple informational text.</td>
<td>- a) Summarizes an informational text using key details; b) Identifies the main idea of an informational text using key details.</td>
<td>- a) Summarizes a complex informational text using relevant key details; b) Identifies the main idea of a complex informational text using key details.</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Locates information using basic text features (e.g., titles, tables of contents, headings, illustrations).</td>
<td>- Locates information using text features (e.g., titles, tables of contents, indices, headings, graphs, lists, tables, illustrations).</td>
<td>- Locates information using complex text features (e.g., titles, tables of contents, indices, headings, graphs, lists, tables, illustrations, maps).</td>
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<td>- Recognizes simple literary and informational texts (e.g., stories, schedules, calendars).</td>
<td>- Identifies a variety of literary and informational texts using textual characteristics (e.g., stories, poems, textbooks, magazines, newspapers, schedules).</td>
<td>- Identifies a wide variety of literary and informational texts using textual characteristics (e.g., stories, poems, textbooks, magazines, newspapers, schedules, websites).</td>
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<tr>
<td>Basic Relationship</td>
<td>Complex Relationship</td>
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<tr>
<td>Identifies the basic relationship between two elements in a literary or an informational text (e.g., two characters, two events).</td>
<td>Identifies the complex relationship between two elements in a literary or an informational text (e.g., two characters, two events, two settings).</td>
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<tr>
<td>Answers simple literal and/or inferential questions about the text.</td>
<td>Answers complex literal and inferential questions using explicit evidence from the text.</td>
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<td>Identifies organizational patterns in simple informational text (e.g., sequence/chronology, cause/effect).</td>
<td>Identifies organizational patterns in complex informational text (e.g., sequence/chronology, cause/effect, compare/contrast).</td>
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<td>Identifies explicit evidence related to a claim.</td>
<td>Supports a claim or thesis using relevant evidence effectively.</td>
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<td>Edits writing for basic conventions of standard English (e.g., initial and familiar proper noun capitalization, punctuation limited to period and question mark).</td>
<td>Edits writing for conventions of standard English in complex text (e.g., initial and proper noun capitalization, punctuation limited to period and question mark).</td>
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<tr>
<td>Identifies evidence related to a simple idea found in the literary or informational text.</td>
<td>Identifies relevant evidence that supports a complex idea found in the literary or informational text.</td>
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<td>Identifies precise word choice for a mode.</td>
<td>Applies precise, appropriate word choice for a variety of modes.</td>
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