What 13-year-olds know and can do in reading

As shown in the item map below, 13-year-olds with a score of 262 were likely to demonstrate the ability to summarize main ideas in an expository passage in order to provide a text-based description. Students with a score of 301 on the scale were likely to successfully provide an example to illustrate how the author of the story created a mood.

Age 13 NAEP Reading Item Map

Scale score	Question description
500	
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345	Provide an example of language and explain the effect on the reader (CR - age 17)
315	Provide relevant information about the subject of a biographical sketch and explain why it is important (CR - ages 9 and 17)
306	Support an opinion about a story using details (CR - ages 9 and 17)
301	Provide an example to illustrate the author's device for creating a mood (CR - age 17)
300	
291	Provide a description that reflects the main idea of a short science passage (CR - ages 9 and 17)
284	Recognize the meaning of a word as used in a document (MC - age 17)
284	Infer the meaning of a supporting idea in a biographical sketch (MC - ages 9 and 17)
282	Recognize an explicitly stated purpose in a process description (MC - age 17)
274	Recognize the sequence of a supporting detail in a story excerpt (MC - age 9)
266	Generalize from details to recognize the meaning of a description (MC - ages 9 and 17)
264	Recognize the main purpose of a description of a process (MC - ages 9 and 17)
262	Summarize the main ideas to provide a description (CR - age 17)
253	Connect explicit information to recognize the main idea in an expository passage (MC)
250	
248	Locate and recognize a relevant detail in a document (MC)
241	Locate and recognize a fact in an expository passage (MC - age 9)
229	Recognize the main idea of a short expository passage (MC)
223	Recognize a character's feeling in a short narrative passage (MC - age 17)
208	Provide a key fact related to the main topic of an expository passage (CR - ages 9 and 17)
200	Recognize a supporting detail in a short document (MC - age 9)
200	
184	Recognize an explicit detail from a poem (MC - age 9)
172	Infer the type of information based on a short paragraph (MC - age 17)
163	Provide a fact relevant to a then-now comparison (CR - ages 9 and 17)
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CR Constructed-response question   MC Multiple-choice question

NOTE: Ages in parentheses indicate a cross-age question. The position of a question on the scale represents the scale score attained by students who had a 65 percent probability of successfully answering a constructed-response question, or a 74 percent probability of correctly answering a four-option multiple-choice question. For constructed-response questions, the question description represents students' performance rated as completely correct. Scores associated with the three performance levels reported for age 13 are boxed.