

What 9-year-olds know and can do in reading

The item map below illustrates a range of reading behaviors associated with scores on the long-term trend reading scale. The cut scores for the three performance levels reported at age 9 are highlighted in boxes on the scale. The descriptions of selected assessment questions indicate what students need to do to receive credit for a correct answer. For example, 9-year-olds with a score of 201 were likely to be able to connect explicit details to recognize the main idea of an expository passage.

Age 9 NAEP Reading Item Map

Scale score	Question description
500	
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296	Infer the meaning of a supporting idea in a biographical sketch (MC - ages 13 and 17)
289	Generalize from details to recognize the meaning of a description (MC - ages 13 and 17)
278	Recognize a sequence of supporting details in a story excerpt (MC - age 13)
271	Interpret story details to recognize what happened (MC - age 13)
266	Recognize the main purpose of an expository passage (MC)
255	Recognize the main idea of instructions (MC - ages 13 and 17)
253	Retrieve and provide relevant information about the subject of a biographical sketch (CR - ages 13 and 17)
250	
244	Locate and recognize a fact in an expository passage (MC - age 13)
240	Recognize the similarity between two story characters (MC - ages 13 and 17)
237	Infer the characters' feelings based on the story dialogue (MC - age 13)
231	Make an inference to recognize generalization of the main topic (MC)
228	Recognize the main topic of a short paragraph (MC)
221	Make an inference based on explicit information in a biographical sketch (MC - ages 13 and 17)
214	Recognize the meaning of a figure of speech in a short poem (MC)
209	Recognize a supporting detail in a short document (MC - age 13)
209	Recognize an explicitly stated fact from a short expository passage (MC)
202	Retrieve and provide a relevant fact related to the main idea (CR - ages 13 and 17)
201	Connect explicit details to recognize the main idea (MC)
200	
198	Recognize an explicitly stated sequence from an expository passage (MC)
183	Use details and prior knowledge to infer a speaker (MC)
177	Recognize explicit information in an expository passage (MC)
161	Choose the best description of a text feature (MC)
153	Recognize an explicit detail from a poem (MC)
150	
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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 9 are boxed.