

Appendix E

*Item Descriptions Developed During
the PIRLS 2006 Benchmarking*

Low Benchmark Items (400)

Literary

		Credit Awarded Constructed Response
E01	Locate and retrieve explicitly stated detail from the beginning of the text	
E04	Recognize a central story event	
F09	Reproduce 1 (of 2) explicitly stated character actions	1 of 2
U07	Recognize a detail of a central event in the story	
U09	Make a straightforward inference based on a specified part of the text	

Informational

A01	Locate and reproduce explicitly stated information from the beginning of the text	1 of 1
A04	Make 1 (of 2) straightforward inferences based on specific information	1 of 2
A06	Locate and match explicitly stated information at the beginning of the section/ subheading	
A08	Locate and reproduce 1 (of 2) pieces of explicitly stated information from a paragraph in a specified part of the text	1 of 2
K01	Locate and reproduce 1 (of 2) pieces of explicitly stated information from several available in the same part at the beginning of the specified text	1 of 2
L01	Locate explicitly stated information at the beginning of the text (continuous text without subheadings)	

Intermediate Benchmark Items (475)

Literary

		Credit Awarded Constructed Response
C03	Given a specified point in the story, infer the character's aims from narration/ description of events and the character's reaction to the events	1 of 1
C05	Locate a relevant detail and make a straightforward inference to recognize a character's action	
C07	Make a straightforward inference to identify the main character's feelings at a specified point in the story	
C08	Reproduce an event by making connections between clearly related sentences	1 of 2
C10	Give a simple statement about a main character's feeling that is clearly suggested at a specified point in the story	1 of 3
C11	Give the main character's importance to the plot	1 of 2
E02	Locate and make an inference about an embedded detail	
E03	Locate a relevant detail and make a straightforward inference to recognize a character's action	
E05	Locate a specified event and reproduces 1 (of 2) explicitly stated character actions, out of five available	1 of 2
E06	Locate a specified episode and recognize a relevant action	
E07	Give a simple explanation of a metaphor	1 of 2
F02	Combine, retrieve, and visualize concrete descriptive information and identifies matching picture	
F03	Identify and infer reason for an action from a dialogue	
F04	Retrieve a concrete, relevant, explicitly stated detail in the text	
F10	Give a simple statement about a character's feeling that is clearly suggested at a specified point in the story	1 of 1
U01	Make an inference to recognize a story event	
U02	Make a straightforward inference to identify an important event in the story	
U05	Sequence story events	1 of 1

Intermediate Benchmark Items (475) (Continued)

		Credit Awarded Constructed Response
U06	Make an inference to explain character's action	1 of 1
U08	Interpret to provide 1 (of 2) explanations of the purpose of a plot device	1 of 2
U10	Provide a relevant detail from the story	1 of 1
U12	Make a connection with personal experience to interpret and provide a story detail as evidence	1 of 2
Y07	Recognize the motivation for a central story event	
Y09	Locate a central event and make a straightforward inference to provide 1 (of 2) character actions, out of several available	1 of 2

Informational

A03	Locate and reproduce explicitly stated information from further in the text	1 of 1
A05	Recognize which piece of information an example illustrates	
A07	Make 2 (of 3) straightforward inferences based on specific information in a single paragraph	2 of 3
A08	Locate and reproduce 2 pieces of information from a paragraph in a specified part of the text	2 of 2
A09	State a preference based on connecting text and personal experience and support it with 1 (of 2) pieces of straightforward evidence	1 of 2
K01	Locate and reproduce 2 pieces of explicitly stated information from a specified part of the text	2 of 2
K02	Make straightforward inference to locate and reproduce 3 pieces of explicitly stated information from further in the text from several in same paragraph	1 of 1
K12	Locate at least 2 text sections, categorize information, and reproduce specific details to partially complete a table (3/6 entries)	1 of 3

Intermediate Benchmark Items (475) (Continued)

		Credit Awarded Constructed Response
L03	Make a straightforward inference to locate and reproduce explicitly stated information from further in the text (continuous text without subheadings)	1 of 1
L-4	Locate and reproduce explicitly stated text from further in the text (continuous text without subheadings)	1 of 3
N01	Recognize the main message of a brochure	
N05	Locate a specified part of the text and recognize explicitly stated information embedded in a list	
N06	Locate a specified part of the text and recognize explicitly stated information embedded in a list	
S02	Locate explicitly stated information at the beginning of the text at an unspecified place	
S03	Make an inference about the best explanation using several pieces of evidence in a specified section of the text	
S06	Locate a major section and recognize explicitly stated explanation embedded in a fact box	
S09	Integrate information within the text to infer and provide an explanation	1 of 1

High Benchmark Items (550)

Literary

		Credit Awarded Constructed Response
C01	Establish the sequence of key (main) events	1 of 1
C02	Make a straightforward inference to explain the cause of an event	1 of 1
C04	Locate the relevant part of the text and make an inference to recognize the explanation of an action	
C06	Make an inference and provides the immediate problem of the character	1 of 1
C10	Contrast clearly suggested feelings of a character at the beginning and end of the story and give an explanation for the change (plot-based)	2 of 3
C12	Recognize the idea of personification	
C13	Recognize main “message” stated in an abstract form	
E05	Locate a specified event and reproduces 2 explicitly stated character actions	2 of 2
E09	Make an inference to explain a character’s action	1 of 2
E10	Distinguish a relevant part of the text and evaluate the form of the language to reproduce appropriate descriptive words	1 of 1
E11	Locate the relevant part of the text to interpret the significance of an event	
E12	Interpret a character’s actions to provide either a description or example	1 of 2
F01	Identify the narrator (in a first person story) from a range of clues in the first part of the story and confirmed by the text and the pictures	
F05	Make an inference to recognize the main character’s feelings	
F06	Make an inference to explain a character’s reaction	1 of 1
F07	Give a simple statement about a character’s action	1 of 2
F08	Infer the significance of a character’s action from subsequent events	1 of 1
F09	Reproduce explicitly stated actions of a character in relation to a particular goal from two different parts of the text	2 of 2

High Benchmark Items (550) (Continued)

		Credit Awarded Constructed Response
F11	Recognize the idea of ending the story with a joke	
F12	Distinguish a relevant detail of the text and interpret a feeling of the narrator	1 of 2
F13	Recognize a conclusion to be drawn from the story based on an interpretation of the whole text	
U03	Locate an embedded metaphorical phrase and infer its meaning	
U04	Locate the relevant part of the text and make a straightforward inference	
U08	Interpret to provide 2 explanations of the purpose of a plot device	2 of 2
Y01	Follow a semantic chain to distinguish relevant details and recognize a connection between appearance and imagery	
Y02	Interpret and generalize to recognize a summary of a character's attributes	
Y04	Locate and retrieve embedded detail	
Y05	Infer a character trait from an example by recognizing a synonym	
Y06	Locate and retrieve embedded detail	
Y08	Locate the relevant event in the story and make a straightforward inference	
Y09	Locate a central event and make a straightforward inference to provide 2 character actions	2 of 2
Y11	Locate a relevant part of the text and recognize the meaning of a metaphor	
Y12	Infer a character trait and support it with a specific action	2 of 2
Y13	Interpret and integrate story events and character actions to describe a character	1 of 3
Y14	State a title preference based on evaluating story events and characters' actions and supports it with 1 piece of plot-based evidence	1 of 2

High Benchmark Items (550) (Continued)

Informational

		Credit Awarded Constructed Response
A02	Locate and distinguish relevant information	
A07	Make 3 (of 3) straightforward inferences based on specific information available in a single paragraph	3 of 3
A10	Apply knowledge of headings to locate a specific piece of information and recognize the section to which it belongs	
A11	Explain a preference based on evaluating features of 2 sections	1 of 1
K03	Recognize an explanation of a metaphor in a picture caption	
K05	Make a straightforward inference to locate a text box and follow a reference chain to reproduce a brief scientific explanation	1 of 1
K06	Make an inference about the best explanation from difficult to locate scientific information	
K07	Locate 1 (of 2) specified text boxes and make an inference to reproduce a brief scientific explanation	1 of 2
K09	Recognize the function of a presentational device	
K11	Integrate information within the text to infer and reformulate information	
K12	Locate 3 sections, categorize information, and reproduce specific details to nearly complete a table (5/6 entries)	2 of 3
L05	Recognize an explanation of an abstract metaphor	
L06	Make an inference to provide textual support for an idea	1 of 1
L08	Make a straightforward inference to identify and reproduce explicitly stated information embedded in continuous text without subheads	1 of 2
L10	Demonstrate interpretation of an abstract idea by providing an example from continuous text	1 of 2
L11	Evaluate content and generalize to recognize the most appropriate title	
L12	Evaluate textual elements and content to provide author's point of view	1 of 2

High Benchmark Items (550) (Continued)

		Credit Awarded Constructed Response
N02	Use subheadings to locate the appropriate section and reproduce 2 pieces of explicitly stated information	1 of 1
N04	Apply knowledge of headings to locate a specific piece of information and recognize the section to which it belongs	
N07	Locate information within a specified part of the text and make an inference about unfamiliar vocabulary	
N08	Use information from a specified part of the text to infer and provide an explanation	1 of 1
N09	Locate and distinguish relevant information from a table	
N11	Locate a specified table of information and show understanding of 1 (of 2) uses of the information	1 of 2
N12	Evaluate the content of 2 specified sections of non-textual information and give 1 (of 2) reasons for a preference	1 of 2
S01	Recognize main purpose of highly detailed 3-part text	
S04	Locate and understand scientific information to recognize an explanation	
S05	Integrate information within the text to infer and provide an explanation	1 of 1
S10	Integrate information across 2 sections to identify a similarity	1 of 1
S15	Explain a preference based on evaluating 3 sections with scientific information	1 of 2

Advanced Benchmark Items (625)

Literary

		Credit Awarded Constructed Response
C08	Describes cause-and-effect relationship	2 of 2
C09	Locate a descriptive phrase and recognize what it shows about the character	
C10	Contrast clearly stated feelings at the beginning and end and give interpretation/ larger significance of reasons for change (integrate and interpret ideas from across the text)	3 of 3
C11	Describe abstract/larger significance function of character in developing theme	2 of 2
E07	Explain both parts of a metaphor in terms of the story	2 of 2
E08	Locate the relevant part of the text to interpret the significance of an event	
E12	Interpret a character's actions to provide a description with a supporting example	2 of 2
F07	Integrate ideas across text to interpret the character's feelings about the setting	2 of 2
F12	Interpret initial feelings and contrast with feeling at the end or supports feelings	2 of 2
U11	Interpret and integrate story events and character actions to describe a character	2 of 3
U12	Make a connection with personal experience to evaluate the story from opposite perspectives and support each with evidence	2 of 2
Y03	Locate and interpret figurative language to provide an explanation	1 of 1
Y10	Interpret the motivation for a character's words by providing an example from the story	1 of 1
Y13	Interpret and integrate story events and character actions to describe a character with a supporting detail from the text	2 of 3
Y14	State a title preference based on evaluating story events and characters' actions and explain the choice in terms of the significance or central role of the character	2 of 2

Advanced Benchmark Items (625) (Continued)

Informational

		Credit Awarded Constructed Response
A04	Interpret information from 2 separate sections of text, further into the text	2 of 2
A09	State a preference based on connecting text and personal experience and support it with evidence from 2 different types of text	2 of 2
K04	Locate and distinguish relevant scientific information embedded across several text boxes	
K07	Locate 2 specific text boxes and make 2 inferences to reproduce 2 explicitly stated pieces of scientific information	2 of 2
K08	Locate and distinguish relevant scientific information across several text boxes and apply it to a given situation	
K10	Integrate scientific information from 3 text boxes to explain a sequence	2 of 2
K12	Locate 3 text sections, distinguish, and categorize information and reproduce specific details to fully complete a table	3 of 3
L02	Distinguish and integrate relevant information across several parts of a text to recognize a possible causal inference	
L07	Integrate information across several parts of text to infer and recognize an explanation	
N03	Locate, distinguish, and reproduce relevant information embedded in a leaflet	1 of 2
N11	Locate a specified table of information and show an understanding of 2 uses of information	2 of 2
N12	Explain 2 reasons for a preference based on evaluating content of 2 specified sections of non-textual information	2 of 2
S07	Describe the function of a presentational device	2 of 2
S11	Locate, distinguish, and take into account an entire section of text to reorder steps of a procedural text with scientific information	1 of 1
S12	Integrates information across several parts of text to infer and provide an explanation	1 of 1
S14	Integrate across text to recognize the function of an organizational and presentational device	
S15	Provides specific information to explain a preference based on evaluating content of 3 texts with scientific information	2 of 2

