



## Grade 8 Reading Item Map: A Resource to Understanding Student Scores

Virginia students participate in grades 3-8 Virginia Growth Assessments and Standards of Learning tests in reading and mathematics. This item map is a resource that provides descriptions and examples of items students were likely to answer correctly based on the vertical scaled score they achieved on their test. A vertical scaled score is a score that allows comparisons between Virginia Growth Assessments and Standards of Learning tests.

The item map shown in the tables below provides examples of test question descriptions at different score points from 1150-2000, the vertical scaled score range for Grade 8 Reading. These examples represent what students may see on the state assessments in Grade 8 Reading.

The descriptions are examples of what students may know or be able to do at each score point. Some descriptions include a released test question and answer options to further show what the student would *most likely answer correctly* if they achieved at or above that score point. This information, along with a student's test results, may be used to plan conversations with families, determine intervention strategies to strengthen student understanding, or establish a plan to accelerate learning.

Match the student's score to the closest number in the left column. In the right column is a description of an item the student would *most likely answer correctly*, based on their score. The student would also most likely correctly answer questions at all score points below the score they achieved.

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**Students who scored in the range 1714 – 2000 are well prepared for learning new grade-level content.**

Score	Description of Test Item						
1903	<p>Analyze the text for characterization. (Fiction)</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; margin: 10px 0;"> <p><b>Directions: Drag the answers to the correct boxes.</b></p> <p><b>Complete this chart.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Joanna’s Attitude Toward Moving</b></p> <table style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 5px;"><b>Beginning of the Story</b></td> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 5px;">→</td> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 5px;"><b>End of the Story</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><input style="width: 100px; height: 25px;" type="text"/></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input style="width: 100px; height: 25px;" type="text"/></td> </tr> </table> <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;"> <div style="border: 1px solid gray; padding: 5px; display: inline-block; margin-bottom: 5px;">Ambitious</div> <div style="border: 1px solid gray; padding: 5px; display: inline-block; margin-bottom: 5px;">Blissful</div> <div style="border: 1px solid gray; padding: 5px; display: inline-block; margin-bottom: 5px;">Consoled</div> <div style="border: 1px solid gray; padding: 5px; display: inline-block; margin-bottom: 5px;">Indifferent</div> <div style="border: 1px solid gray; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">Troubled</div> </div> </div>	<b>Beginning of the Story</b>	→	<b>End of the Story</b>	<input style="width: 100px; height: 25px;" type="text"/>		<input style="width: 100px; height: 25px;" type="text"/>
<b>Beginning of the Story</b>	→	<b>End of the Story</b>					
<input style="width: 100px; height: 25px;" type="text"/>		<input style="width: 100px; height: 25px;" type="text"/>					
1865	Select a synonym for a word in a passage. (Nonfiction)						
1778	Summarize a text by putting supporting details in order. (Nonfiction)						

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1733	Describe how an author's word choice impacts the text. (Nonfiction)  <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px;"><p><b>By describing the ocean's habitat as "delicate," the author intends to —</b></p><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="radio"/> A. explain why the habitat is likely to survive for only a few more years</li><li><input type="radio"/> B. emphasize how some types of corals form thin structures</li><li><input type="radio"/> C. emphasize that an altered habitat can be dangerous for creatures living there</li><li><input type="radio"/> D. explain that sea creatures are more fragile than creatures living on land</li></ul></div>
1714	Complete a cause-and-effect chart based on information from the text. (Fiction)



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**Students who scored in the range 1579 – 1713 are at risk for needing additional support with learning grade-level content.**

Score	Description of Test Item
<b>1710</b>	Decide which detail from the text supports a key idea. (Nonfiction)
<b>1698</b>	Identify the differences in form and style between a story and a poem. (Fiction)
<b>1678</b>	Identify or analyze the author's organizational pattern. (Nonfiction) <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; margin: 10px 0;"> <p><b>The organization of ideas in paragraph 6 supports the author's message by —</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="radio"/> A. comparing several recent observations made by scientists who study the oceans</li> <li><input type="radio"/> B. emphasizing the most important differences among inhabitants of a reef</li> <li><input type="radio"/> C. outlining ways in which changes in water temperature affect a coral reef</li> <li><input type="radio"/> D. describing in chronological order the events that occur in the ocean</li> </ul> </div>
<b>1620</b>	Determine which statement describes the contrast between two authors' styles. (Fiction)
<b>1579</b>	Select the sentence from an article that represents the main idea. (Nonfiction)



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Students who scored in the range 1150 – 1578 need additional support with prior knowledge and foundational skills while learning grade-level content.

Score	Description of Test Item
1578	Analyze text for author’s word choice. (Nonfiction)
1505	Analyze text for author's viewpoint. (Nonfiction) <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; margin: 10px 0;"> <p><b>Based on the article, the author most likely wants the reader to agree that —</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="radio"/> A. humans should leave coral reefs untouched</li> <li><input type="radio"/> B. catching fish in coral reefs is harmful</li> <li><input type="radio"/> C. coral is the most beautiful creature in the ocean</li> <li><input type="radio"/> D. preserving coral reefs is important</li> </ul> </div>
1451	Select a sentence from a text that supports a given theme. (Fiction)
1404	Determine the purpose of figurative language in a sentence. (Fiction)
1311	Choose which two words have a negative connotation. (Fiction)