

Sample Performance Tasks for Stories and Poetry

- Students *make connections between the visual presentation* of John Tenniel’s illustrations in Lewis Carroll’s *Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland* and the text of the story to *identify* how the pictures of Alice reflect *specific descriptions* of her in the text. [RL.4.7]
- Students *explain* the selfish behavior by Mary and make *inferences* regarding the impact of the cholera outbreak in Frances Hodgson Burnett’s *The Secret Garden* by *explicitly referring to details and examples from the text*. [RL.4.1]
- Students *describe how the narrator’s point of view* in Walter Farley’s *The Black Stallion* *influences how events are described* and how the reader perceives the character of Alexander Ramsay, Jr. [RL.5.6]
- Students *summarize* the plot of Antoine de Saint-Exupéry’s *The Little Prince* and then reflect on the *challenges* facing the *characters in the story* while employing those and other *details in the text* to discuss the value of inquisitiveness and exploration as a *theme* of the story. [RL.5.2]
- Students read Natalie Babbitt’s *Tuck Everlasting* and *describe in depth* the idyllic setting of the story, *drawing on specific details in the text*, from the color of the sky to the sounds of the pond, to describe the scene. [RL.4.3]
- Students *compare and contrast* coming-of-age stories by Christopher Paul Curtis (*Bud, Not Buddy*) and Louise Erdrich (*The Birchbark House*) by identifying *similar themes* and examining the stories’ *approach* to the topic of growing up. [RL.5.9]
- Students *refer to the structural elements* (e.g., *verse, rhythm, meter*) of Ernest Lawrence Thayer’s “Casey at the Bat” when analyzing the *poem* and contrasting the impact and *differences* of those *elements* to a *prose* summary of the *poem*. [RL.4.5]
- Students *determine the meaning of the metaphor* of a cat in Carl Sandburg’s poem “Fog” and contrast that *figurative language* to the meaning of the *simile* in William Blake’s “The Echoing Green.” [RL.5.4]