Reading – Benchmark 10

Profile of Ability

The reader can:

Understand an expanding range of complex multipurpose texts in many unpredictable contexts and on many unfamiliar topics.

When the text is:

- Linguistically complex and may include some idiomatic and figurative language
- With abstract, conceptual or specialized vocabulary
- Visually complex and lengthy or dense
- In demanding contexts

Demonstrating these strengths and limitations:

- Identifies purpose, main ideas, supporting details, author's intent, mood, attitude and point of view, values and assumptions from stated and implied information
- Uses knowledge of styles and registers to assist in comprehension
- Uses inference to integrate several pieces of stated and implied information throughout the text
- Separates relevant from irrelevant details
- Paraphrases and summarizes key points
- Uses knowledge of complex grammar and syntax to interpret nuances in texts
- Sometimes has difficulty interpreting low-frequency idioms, cultural references and figures of speech
- Uses a unilingual dictionary to confirm and refine interpretation of unknown terms

I. Interacting with Others

- Understand complex written communication (such as editorials, letters to the editor, personal essays and fiction) conveying stated and unstated values and assumptions.
  - Identifies and explains values and assumptions.
  - Identifies or infers mood and attitude.
  - Identifies the purpose of the text and its parts.
  - Draws inferences about the author's implied meanings in sections of the text.
  - Identifies context and situation.
  - Differentiates between facts and opinions.
  - Identifies register, style and language variety.
  - Demonstrates strengths and limitations typical of Reading Benchmark 10, as listed in the Profile of Ability.

Sample Tasks

Read 2 editorials on the same issue or topic to identify and discuss implicit differences in values and assumptions.

Read 2 blog postings about a social or political issue (such as taxation, wages or social assistance) to identify implicit assumptions and underlying values in each.

Read an issue-specific webpage, blog or other social media communication to evaluate the position and supporting data and respond appropriately.

II. Comprehending Instructions

- Understand and summarize complex instructional texts about familiar procedures.

  [Comprehending and summarizing the text requires integrating several detailed pieces of information; instructions are clear and explicit, but not presented step by step.]
  - Summarizes the information from the text into clear, comprehensive multistep instructions.
  - Locates and integrates several pieces of information to interpret and follow instructions correctly.
  - Extracts important details and presents instructions in point form.
  - Demonstrates strengths and limitations typical of Reading Benchmark 10, as listed in the Profile of Ability.

Sample Tasks

Read instructions from a reputable medical program on how to lose, gain and maintain body weight to explain to a friend or family member.

Extract information from policy and procedure manuals, equipment installation and use manuals, product user guides, health and safety advisories, legal and administrative procedures, and scientific and experimental procedures to reorganize the information into step-by-step procedures.

Use electrical and building codes to help in home maintenance or small renovation.