

Appendix 13B: PIRLS 2016 Literary Item Descriptions Developed During the PIRLS 2016 Benchmarking

Items at Low International Benchmark (400)

P/PL	F_10	Recognize and reproduce a character’s feeling that is clearly suggested at a specified point in the story
P/PL	B_01	Retrieve and reproduce explicitly stated information about the central character
P/PL	B_02	Retrieve the explicitly stated reason for a character’s action
P/PL	B_03	Retrieve the explicitly stated reason for a character’s action
P/PL	B_04	Make a straightforward inference about a reason for a character’s action
P/PL	B_06	Make a straightforward inference about the reason for an event
P/PL	B_07	Retrieve and reproduce an explicitly stated detail about the reason for an event
P/PL	B_08	Make a straightforward inference about the purpose of a character’s action
P/PL	B_12	Make an inference to recognize the purpose of a character’s action
P/PL	B_13	Interpret story events to determine the cause of one of a character’s stated feelings
P	M_09	Reproduce a straightforward reason for an action
P	H_01	Locate an explicitly stated character action from the beginning of the text
PL	M_01	Locate explicitly stated information at the beginning of the text
PL	M_03	Locate and reproduce an explicitly stated action of a character
PL	M_04	Locate and reproduce an explicitly stated detail
PL	M_05	Recognize and retrieve an explicitly stated detail
PL	M_06	Recognize and reproduce explicitly stated information
PL	M_08	Locate and reproduce explicitly stated information
PL	M_09	Make an inference about the reason for an event
PL	M_10	Locate and reproduce 2 explicitly stated feelings of a character
PL	M_12	Locate and reproduce an explicitly stated detail
PL	M_13	Locate and make a straightforward inference about a character’s action
PL	M_16	Locate and reproduce an explicitly stated action
PL	O_01	Locate explicitly stated information at the beginning of the text
PL	O_03	Locate and recognize explicitly stated information
PL	O_04	Retrieve an explicitly stated character trait

P: PIRLS passage PL: PIRLS Literacy passage P/PL: Passage in PIRLS and PIRLS Literacy

PL	O_05	Locate and reproduce a character’s idea
PL	O_06	Make a straightforward inference about a character’s words
PL	O_07	Make a straightforward inference about the purpose for a character’s action
PL	O_08	Make a straightforward inference about a character’s feeling
PL	O_09	Locate and reproduce explicitly stated information
PL	O_10	Locate and reproduce explicitly stated information
PL	O_11	Make a straightforward inference about a character’s reaction
PL	O_12	Make a straightforward inference about a character’s reaction
PL	O_14	Locate and reproduce explicitly stated information
PL	U_01	Locate and reproduce explicitly stated information at the beginning of the text
PL	U_02	Locate and recognize an explicitly stated action
PL	U_03	Make a straightforward inference about the reason for a situation
PL	U_04	Locate and reproduce the reason for a situation
PL	U_05	Locate and recognize an explicitly stated reason for a character’s action
PL	U_06	Locate and recognize the explicitly stated reason for a situation
PL	U_09	Make a straightforward inference about the reason for a character’s action
PL	U_11	Locate and reproduce 1 (of 2) pieces of explicitly stated information
PL	U_11	Locate and reproduce 2 pieces of explicitly stated information
PL	U_12	Determine the sequence of events of the whole story
PL	U_13	Evaluate the whole story and recognize a central idea
PL	L_01	Make a straightforward inference about a detail from the beginning of the story
PL	L_03	Locate and reproduce an explicitly stated reason for a character’s words
PL	L_04	Locate and reproduce the reason for a character’s words
PL	L_05	Make a straightforward inference and reproduce 1 (of 2) of a character’s actions
PL	L_06	Retrieve and reproduce explicitly stated information
PL	L_07	Retrieve and recognize explicitly stated explanation of a character’s action
PL	L_09	Integrate ideas to show understanding of how a character develops
PL	L_12	Retrieve an explicitly stated reason for a character’s action
PL	L_13	Locate and reproduce 1 (of 2) explicitly stated detail

P: PIRLS passage PL: PIRLS Literacy passage P/PL: Passage in PIRLS and PIRLS Literacy

PL	L_14	Locate and recognize an explicitly stated idea
PL	L_15	Show understanding of a character's trait by 1 (of 2) example of a character's actions
P	O_01	Retrieve and recognize a character's expectations about a future event
P/PL	B_05	Locate and recognize an embedded detail
P/PL	B_11	Retrieve and recognize an explicitly stated cause of a character's action
Items at Intermediate International Benchmark (475)		
P/PL	F_01	Identify the narrator (in a first person story) from a range of clues in the text and confirmed by the pictures
P/PL	F_04	Retrieve and recognize explicitly stated information
P/PL	F_06	Make an inference to explain a character's reaction to an event
P/PL	F_09	Reproduce 1 (of 2) explicitly stated character action
P	O_02	Recognize and reproduce explicitly stated information
P	O_07	Infer 2 physical characteristics from a description
P	Y_09	Locate a central event and make a straightforward inference to provide 1 (of 2) character action
P	Y_13	Interpret and integrate story events and character actions to describe or illustrate a character trait
P/PL	B_09	Locate and reproduce an explicit action from a sequence
P/PL	B_16	Locate and reproduce 1 (of 2) action to give a reason for a character's change in thinking
P/PL	B_17	Integrate ideas across the text to provide a character description or action
P	M_02	Locate and reproduce an explicit detail embedded in the introductory paragraph
P	M_08	Locate and retrieve an explicit action from a sequence
P	M_11	Locate and retrieve an explicitly stated feeling
P	M_13	Make a straightforward inference about a character's reaction to a situation
P	M_17	Locate and reproduce a straightforward story event as the cause of 1 (of 3) feeling
P	H_02	Recognize how an author demonstrates a character's traits
P	H_06	Locate and reproduce 1 (of 2) action that leads to a specified result
P	H_11	Infer and recognize the reason for a character's action
PL	M_07	Make a straightforward inference about a character's reaction
PL	M_14	Integrate evidence to make a causal inference
PL	M_18	Evaluate the whole story and recognize the central idea
PL	O_02	Make a straightforward inference about the reason for a character's reaction

P: PIRLS passage PL: PIRLS Literacy passage P/PL: Passage in PIRLS and PIRLS Literacy

PL	O_13	Integrate evidence and recognize the reason for a character's reaction
PL	O_15	Integrate evidence and reproduce either a character's reaction or an explanation for this reaction
PL	U_08	Make a straightforward inference about the reason for a character's action
PL	L_05	Make a straightforward inference and reproduce 2 of a character's actions
PL	L_13	Locate and reproduce 2 explicitly stated details
P/PL	B_10	Recognize the meaning of a simile
P/PL	B_14	Locate and integrate evidence to recognize a character's reaction
P	M_07	Recognize the reason for characters' actions
P	H_12	Integrate evidence to recognize the reason for a character's action
P/PL	F_02	Retrieve, combine, and visualize concrete descriptive information and identify matching picture
P/PL	F_03	Infer reason for an opinion from a dialogue
P	Y_07	Retrieve and recognize a character's plan of action
P	M_01	Recognize explicit central information from the introductory paragraph
PL	L_08	Locate and recognize an explicitly stated piece of information
PL	L_10	Locate and recognize an explicitly stated reason for a character's opinion

Items at High International Benchmark (550)

P/PL	F_07	Give a simple interpretation of a character's feelings about the setting
P/PL	F_08	Infer the significance of a character's action from subsequent events
P/PL	F_09	Reproduce 2 explicitly stated character actions from different parts of the text
P/PL	F_12	Interpret the narrator's feelings at either the beginning or the end of the story
P	O_05	Locate and reproduce 1 (of 2) explicitly stated physical attribute of a character embedded in a longer description
P	O_08	Integrate ideas across text to interpret the reasons for a character's feelings
P	O_09	Interpret the reason for a character's reaction
P	O_10	Interpret and integrate a character's actions, including at least 1 character trait and 1 supporting action
P	O_13	Interpret and integrate story events to do 1 of the following: determine the reason for a character's inability to perform an action, identify another character's action that changes this, and show understanding of how this action changes another character's feelings
P	Y_01	Infer from complex imagery how a character's appearance suggests her name
P	Y_04	Locate and retrieve an embedded detail
P	Y_06	Locate and retrieve information from a dialogue within a description of a character's actions

P: PIRLS passage PL: PIRLS Literacy passage P/PL: Passage in PIRLS and PIRLS Literacy

P	Y_09	Locate a central event and make a straightforward inference to provide 2 character actions
P	Y_10	Interpret the motivation for a character's words by providing an example from the story
P	Y_11	Locate a relevant part of the text and recognize the meaning of a metaphor
P	Y_12	Integrate story events to support a chosen character description with evidence
P	Y_14	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
P/PL	B_13	Interpret story events to determine the cause of two contradictory stated feelings
P/PL	B_15	Interpret the reason for a character's words
P/PL	B_17	Integrate ideas across the text to provide a character description and supporting action
P	M_03	Recognize the meaning of a metaphor central to the story
P	M_06	Show understanding of a character by examining a series of the character's actions
P	M_12	Interpret a character's hidden motivation in the context of the whole story
P	M_14	Integrate evidence from across the text to interpret the reason for a situation
P	M_15	Evaluate a character's actions across the text to interpret his underlying values
P	M_16	Show understanding of the story plot by interpreting a character's hidden intention
P	M_17	Locate and reproduce events from different parts of the story as the cause of 2 (of 3) feelings
P	H_03	Infer the reason for a character's feelings
P	H_06	Locate and reproduce 2 actions that lead to a specific result
P	H_10	Locate and recognize the inspiration for a character's idea
P	H_13	Interpret ideas from across the text to identify a character trait
P	H_14	Integrate evidence from across the text to describe a central idea
P	H_15	Integrate events across the text to predict a character's future behavior
P	H_09	Make a straightforward inference about the reason for a character's words
P/PL	F_05	Make an inference to recognize the main character's feelings
P/PL	F_11	Evaluate the tone of the story and recognize that a humorous ending fits the story
P/PL	F_13	Evaluate the whole story to recognize a central idea
P	O_06	Locate and retrieve dialogue that results in a given character emotion
P	O_11	Understand the meaning of figurative language
P	O_12	Make a straightforward inference to recognize the reason for a character's action
P	Y_02	Interpret and generalize to recognize a summary of a character's attributes

P: PIRLS passage PL: PIRLS Literacy passage P/PL: Passage in PIRLS and PIRLS Literacy

P	Y_05	Infer a character trait from a character's action
P	Y_08	Locate a relevant point in the story and make an inference about an event
P	M_05	Retrieve, combine, and visualize a procedural sequence and recognize matching diagram
P	H_05	Make an inference to explain a character's action

Items at Advanced International Benchmark (625)

P/PL	F_07	Integrate ideas across text to interpret the character's feelings about the setting
P/PL	F_12	Interpret the change in the narrator's feelings between the beginning and the end of the story
P	O_03	Recognize that the author's choice of words raises suspense
P	O_05	Locate and reproduce 2 explicitly stated physical attributes of a character embedded in a longer description
P	O_10	Interpret and integrate a character's actions, including at least 1 character trait and 2 supporting actions
P	O_13	Interpret and integrate story events to fully explain the implications of the central character's problem and its resolution
P	Y_03	Infer an explanation by examining description and imagery
P	Y_13	Interpret and integrate story events and character actions to describe a character with two supporting details from the text
P/PL	B_16	Locate and reproduce 2 actions to give a reason for a character's change in thinking
P	M_04	Make an inference from a specified point in the story to find evidence to support a given description of a character
P	M_10	Interpret a possible motivation for characters' advice
P	M_17	Locate and reproduce events from different parts of the story as the cause of each of 3 feelings
P	H_07	Locate, determine, and recognize the reason for a character's point of view
P	H_13	Interpret ideas from across the text to identify and support a character trait with 1 (of 2) example
P	H_16	Evaluate story events and character actions to explain why an alternative, given title would be appropriate

Items Above the Advanced International Benchmark (625)

P	O_04	Evaluate and reproduce 2 examples of character's words that convey an emotion
P	M_09	Contrast two situations in the story to give a reason for characters' actions
P	H_04	Interpret story events to determine the implicit reason for a character's actions
P	H_08	Evaluate and determine the implicit meaning of a character's statement
P	H_13	Integrate ideas from across the text to identify a character trait and support it with 2 examples

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