ELA Cognitive Skills

The reading process can be generally categorized under the following cognitive processes. The lists of skills are not necessarily unique to the indicated level, nor are they exhaustive lists. The following categories have derived from a variety of sources, all related to identifying various levels of cognitive skills required to achieve basic comprehension as well as strategic thinking.

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| Cognitive Skills | **Examples of Skills** | **Key Words** |
| Level 1: Identify/Recall*Recognize basic/literal information presented in a text or texts.* | * Identify genre.
* Recall and locate details.
* Recognize parts of speech.
* Identify facts and opinions.
* Identify functions of punctuation.
* Identify facts and supporting details.
* Identify literary elements or techniques.
* Sequence events in the order they occur in text(s).
 | * List
* Recall
* Match
* Identify
* Describe
* Recognize
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| Level 2: Infer/Analyze*Comprehend information presented in a text or texts by making inferences and drawing conclusions.* | * Determine the tone or mood.
* Determine the central/main idea or theme.
* Interpret and/or make connections across text(s).
* Determine the structure of a text or sections of text(s).
* Determine or explain character’s role, motives, or traits.
* Use context to determine the specific use of punctuation.
* Determine the point of view of a text(s) or an author’s purpose.
* Determine word meaning or use of figurative language in context.
* Distinguish between supporting details/main ideas and irrelevant details.
* Analyze how text features or sections of text(s) contribute to or develop the main idea or theme.
* Compare and contrast information across text(s) such as character traits, topic development, or theme.
 | * Infer
* Explain
* Analyze
* Describe
* Contrast
* Compare
* Interpret
* Conclude
* Determine
* Distinguish
* Summarize
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| **Level 3:****Evaluate/Apply***Understand multiple points of view, as well as project his/her own judgments or perspective on a text or texts.* | * Compare and contrast multiple points of view in text(s).
* Argue or defend a point of view with evidence from text(s).
* Apply understanding of text(s) to extend a story or narrative.
* Analyze and evaluate author’s purpose, style, craft, and message.
* Synthesize information from a text(s) to support an argument or explain a concept.
 | * Apply
* Argue
* Critique
* Analyze
* Evaluate
* Contrast
* Compare
* Synthesize
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