**Level Q**

Please note that this is only a small part of the reading process. Classroom performance is not included in this assessment.

**Q: Characteristics of Texts at Level Q:**

* Informational texts, more complex fantasy, realistic fiction, traditional literature (folktales),

biographies, autobiographies, memoirs, mysteries, historical fiction, short stories, genre

combinations (hybrids), diaries

* Many abstract themes requiring inferential thinking to derive
* Texts with deeper meanings applicable to important human problems and social issues
* Some more challenging themes (war, the environment)
* Many new vocabulary words that depend on readers’ tools (such as glossaries)
* Many new vocabulary words for readers to derive meaning from context
* Extensive use of figurative language (idioms, simile, metaphor)
* Words that are seldom used in oral language and are difficult to decode
* Many technical words that are difficult to decode
* Nonfiction may contain a variety of complex graphics, often more than one on a page
* Some nonfiction texts with graphics that have scales or legends that require understanding and

interpretation

**Characteristics of Developing Independent Readers (Reading at Level Q):**

* Automatically read and understand a full range of genres, including biographies, hybrid genres,

fiction with elaborate plots and complex characters, informational texts, etc.

* Able to process lengthy, complex sentences, containing prepositional phrases, introductory

clauses, and lists of nouns, verbs, or adjectives

* Solve new vocabulary words, some defined in the text and some unexplained
* Most reading is silent, but fluency and phrasing in oral reading are well‐established
* Readers are challenged by many longer descriptive words and by content‐specific/technical

words

* Able to take apart multisyllable words and use a full range of word‐solving skills
* Read and understand texts in a variety of layouts and formats
* Consistently search for information in illustrations and increasingly complex graphics