Community Adult Literacy Benchmarks: Reading – Level 1 Checklist

PROCESS	BENCHMARK	BASIC	PROFICIENT	STRONG
Analyze	Match letters to sounds			
	Recognize personal and social sight words in text and in isolation			
	Understand basic reading practices such as read from left to right and top to bottom			
	Locate specific information in predictable, functional, personally relevant, or repetitive text			
	Recall information in predictable text or retell a story			
Interpret	Use context cues (meaning and language) to figure out words in familiar text			
	Use print or sound cues (phonics) to figure out unfamiliar words			
	Make a prediction and/or inference after listening to a fictional piece of text read by another person			
	Identify the theme after listening to a fictional piece of text read by another person			
	Identify the main idea after listening to a non-fictional piece of text read by another person			
	Relate text to prior knowledge after listening to a piece of text			
	Identify the difference between fact and opinion after listening to a passage read by another person			
Monitor	Understand that print has meaning and some personal application			
	Recognize when unable to understand text			
	Recognize when unable to figure out words (decode)			

Community Adult Literacy Benchmarks: Reading – Level 2 Checklist

PROCESS	BENCHMARK	BASIC	PROFICIENT	STRONG
Analyze	Use a variety of strategies to figure out unfamiliar words in text and in isolation (e.g., word families, phonics, prediction)			
	Recognize high frequency sight words in text and in isolation			
	Describe the purpose of simple punctuation (e.g., capital letters, end punctuation)			
	Locate specific information in a single piece of text and/or document			
	Use the organization of text to understand it (e.g., title, pictures, paragraphing)			
Interpret	Use context cues (meaning and language) to predict words and their meaning			
	Use print or sound cues (phonics) to figure out unfamiliar words			
	Make inferences and predictions after reading a piece of fiction			
	Identify the theme after reading a piece of fiction			
	Identify the main idea after reading a non-fictional piece of text			
	Relate text to prior knowledge after reading a piece of text			
	Identify the difference between fact and opinion after reading a non-fictional piece of text			
Monitor	Make links to prior knowledge			
	Ask questions when unable to comprehend text and/or graphic material			
	Identify that reading difficulties may be because reading material is not at the right level			
	Use appropriate strategies to assist comprehension and/or decoding difficulties (e.g., re-reading, context clues, looking at the title)			

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Community Adult Literacy Benchmarks: Reading – Level 3 Checklist

PROCESS	BENCHMARK	BASIC	PROFICIENT	STRONG
Analyze	Use appropriate strategies to figure out words with two or more syllables in text and in isolation (e.g., structural analysis)			
	Recognize high frequency sight words in text and in isolation			
	Describe the purpose of the comma, colon, semicolon, apostrophes, brackets			
	Locate information in a book or a document, using appropriate strategies and graphic organizers (e.g., pictures, index, headings)			
	Use the form and structure of poetry to understand it (e.g., rhymes, stanzas, haiku, limericks)			
Interpret	Use context to determine meaning of difficult vocabulary			
	Understand how a dictionary works			
	Make inferences, predictions, and/or draw conclusions in a piece of text or document			
	Identify and analyze features of themes conveyed through characters, actions and images			
	State main idea, details, and sequence in a short, non-fictional piece of text			
	Relate text to prior knowledge after reading a piece of text			
	Form opinions after reading a piece of text or document			
Monitor	Ask questions when unable to understand text or graphic material			
	Initiate strategies to assist comprehension and decoding (e.g., re-reading, context clues, looking at the title, memory association techniques)			

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Community Adult Literacy Benchmarks: Reading – Level 4 Checklist

PROCESS	BENCHMARK	BASIC	PROFICIENT	STRONG
Analyze	Use appropriate strategies to figure out difficult words (e.g., word families, phonics, prediction, structural analysis)			
	Recognize complex and technical words by sight			
	Recognize high frequency sight words in text and in isolation			
	Describe the purpose of various punctuation used in written English			
	Locate and compare information in books, documents or on the internet			
	Use the form and structure of text to understand popular media (e.g., newspapers, magazines, online information)			
Interpret	Use context to help determine the meaning of abstract words and figures of speech (e.g., metaphors, analogies)			
	Use a dictionary to find meanings of words			
	Identify inferences and conclusions in text or document			
	Identify universal themes in fiction (e.g., loss, sacrifice, heroism)			
	Summarize non-fictional text			
	Relate text to prior knowledge after reading a piece of text			
	Identify propaganda in popular media			
Monitor	Ask questions when unable to understand text or graphic material			
	Initiate strategies to assist comprehension and decoding (e.g., re-reading, context clues, looking at the title, memory association techniques)			

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