



Case Study: Strengthening 5th Grade Reading Readiness Through Aligned Assessment Practice

Scenario: A 5th grade teacher in Virginia sought support in preparing a diverse group of learners for the state’s end-of-grade reading assessment. Together, we built a targeted, standards-aligned plan that ensured students practiced with grade level appropriate texts, skills aligned to the *Virginia Standards of Learning (SOL)*, and questions were created at the correct level of rigor.

Methodology: Using student performance data, we identified priority skills that required additional practice. We then analyzed the Grade 5 Reading SOL test blueprint to determine which genres and standards would be most impactful—ultimately selecting a paired fiction and nonfiction passage set with a shared topic and theme.

To ensure accuracy and alignment, we used question stems from the Virginia Department of Education’s Grade 5 Assessment Supports Webinar. Therefore, ensuring that while completing the reading assignment, students would experience questions written in the same style and at the correct cognitive demand as the state assessment.

Result: The result was a set of grade-level appropriate passages and questions that mirrored the structure, rigor, and expectations of the SOL assessment. This approach gave the teacher a clear, actionable path for instruction and provided students with meaningful practice that directly supported their readiness for the end-of-grade test.

“Lauren helped me pull questions out of the passages to help ready my students for their testing.”