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| **Grades** | **Engagement & Identity** | **Stamina** | **Independence** | **Vocabulary Knowledge** | **Fluency** | **Critical Thinking** | **Comprehension** |
| **K-1** | Explores familiar texts; chooses texts matching interests; identifies favorite texts; sets one reading goal | Reads (through pictures and/or words) in increments of 5-15 minutes; reads longer with multiple texts | Engages with texts read aloud; reads familiar texts on own and unfamiliar ones with assistance | Recognizes familiar words; reads around new words | Rereads familiar texts multiple times for smoothness | Makes basic text-to-self connections; asks text-dependent questions | Demonstrates basic understanding of text read; responds to text-dependent questions |
| **2-3** | Chooses texts at independent and instructional levels; tries unfamiliar texts; identifies favorite authors and genres and why they are favorites; chooses texts that match level and interests; sets basic reading goals | Reads in sustained increments of 15-30 minutes; reads longer with multiple texts | Reads familiar texts and ones at independent and instructional levels on own; reads challenging texts with assistance | Applies knowledge of phonics and language to work through new words | Rereads familiar texts for smoothness; reads texts more evenly on first try | Makes text-to-text and text-to-world connections; asks inferential questions | Demonstrates understanding of text’s story or topic; responds to inferential questions |
| **4-5** | Reads new texts of challenging level or interest; discusses texts; recommends texts to others; identifies and self-assesses own reading behaviors; sets reading goals | Reads in sustained increments of 30 minutes or more; gets “lost” in the reading | Reads a variety of text types at different levels without assistance | Applies word analysis strategies and content knowledge to tackle new words | Reads familiar and unfamiliar texts smoothly and at a consistent pace throughout | Makes high-level connections across texts and contexts; asks beyond-the-text questions; evaluates texts based on success of author’s purpose | Demonstrates understanding of text’s theme or purpose; responds to beyond-the-text questions |

**Independent Reading Continuum**