

PIRLS/prePIRLS 2011 Item Release Plan

PIRLS 2011 is designed so that the assessment is divided into blocks, with each block containing a passage and reading comprehension items about that passage. Individual student booklets contain two blocks according to a systematic design. As far as possible, the distribution of items within each block reflects the range of item formats and PIRLS comprehension processes in the overall assessment. PIRLS 2011 has a total of 10 blocks, 5 that contain literary texts and 5 containing informational texts. PrePIRLS has a total of 8 blocks, also equally balanced between literary and informational texts. Details about the PIRLS 2011 student booklet design are included in the *PIRLS 2011 Assessment Framework*.

PIRLS 2011 is the third assessment in a series of studies conducted every five years, providing trends in reading achievement back to 2001. Due to the evolving nature of the PIRLS design, portions of the achievement tests are released and replaced with each new study. Therefore, PIRLS 2011 contains assessment blocks from 2001, 2006, and 2011. Four of the ten PIRLS 2011 assessment blocks and four of the eight prePIRLS 2011 assessment blocks will be released in December 2012 and made widely available as part of the *PIRLS/prePIRLS 2011 International Databases*.

Item blocks are released to provide the public with as much information as possible about the nature and contents of the assessment. The exhibits below show the cycle for which each assessment block was developed and whether the block will be released to the public after the 2011 cycle. The released PIRLS item blocks include two blocks from 2006 and two blocks used for the first time in 2011. Because prePIRLS was a new initiative for 2011, all of its assessment blocks are newly developed. Half of these blocks will be released to give the public further insight into the content of this new assessment.

PIRLS 2011 Assessment Blocks by Number of Score Points, Assessment Year, and Release Status

Block	Passage Name	Number of Score Points	First Year of Assessment	Release Status
Literary Blocks				
L1	Flowers on the Roof	17	2001	Secured
L2	Fly, Eagle, Fly	16	2006	Released
L3	Shiny Straw	19	2006	Secured
L4	The Empty Pot	20	2011	Secured
L5	Enemy Pie	19	2011	Released
Informational Blocks				
I1	Leonardo Da Vinci	17	2001	Secured
I2	Day Hiking	15	2006	Released
I3	Sharks	17	2006	Secured
I4	Where's the Honey?	17	2011	Secured
I5	The Giant Tooth Mystery	18	2011	Released

prePIRLS 2011 Assessment Blocks by Number of Score Points, Assessment Year, and Release Status

Block	Passage Name	Number of Score Points	First Year of Assessment	Release Status
Literary Blocks				
L1	Baghita's Perfect Orange	17	2011	Secured
L2	Brave Charlotte	20	2011	Released
L3	The Summer My Father Was Ten	15	2011	Secured
L4	The Lonely Giraffe	15	2011	Released
Informational Blocks				
I1	Ants	18	2011	Secured
I2	Caterpillar to Butterfly	16	2011	Released
I3	Training a Deaf Polar Bear	16	2011	Secured
I4	Two Giant Dinosaurs	17	2011	Released