

Text Complexity Analysis Template

Text complexity analysis					
Created by:	Donna Mingrone	Event/Date:	TeachFest Connecticut Summer Academy 2014		
Text and Author	<p>Winter's Tail: How One Little Dolphin Learned to Swim Again Told by Juliana Hatkoff, Isabella Hatkoff, and Craig Hatkoff</p>	Where to Access Text	<p>Scholastic Paperback ISBN 978-0-545-25843-2 Also ISBN 9780545123358</p>		
Text Description					
<p>Winter, a young Atlantic bottlenose dolphin, was gravely injured after getting tangled in a crab trap off the coast of Florida. Her tail was seriously damaged. A fisherman found her and enlisted help from a marine rescue group. She was rushed to Clearwater Marine Aquarium, where she was cared for by a special team around the clock. Winter survived, though eventually her tail fell off. This made it difficult for her to swim like a normal dolphin and caused damage to her spine. A team of experts from a renowned company that makes prosthetics for humans heard about Winter and decided to help in her rehabilitation. Winter has since learned to use a prosthetic tail with to overcome her physical challenge, and has become a role model for humans with similar physical challenges.</p>					
Quantitative					
Lexile and Grade Level	930 Lexile: Grades 4-5 CCSS Band Ages 8-11 suggested	Text Length	40 Pages		
Qualitative					
Meaning/Central Ideas		Text Structure/Organization			
<p>The central idea illustrates that creatures or humans with disabilities can flourish with resilience, hard work, and sustained effort. The people who come to Winter's aid are role models for compassion and friendship.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many full color photographs to support the story line • Simple sentences interspersed with very complex ones, making the story initially appear much easier to read than the Lexile level indicates • Many new subject specific vocabulary words; a lot of opportunities for investigating related topics/ideas (dolphins, animal rescue, rehabilitation...) • Told in more of a story-telling form than a “science textbook” form 			
Prior Knowledge Demands		Language Features			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prior knowledge of what a dolphin looks like, its swimming style, what it means to have a significant physical challenge or physical injury to recover from • Many students will have already seen the movie Dolphin Tale (2011) that was based on this book; a good opportunity for a teacher to have students compare the book to the movie storyline 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conventionality: slightly complex • Vocabulary: some complex • Sentence structure: Mix of very simple and fairly complex sentences • Background information: Marine Aquarium, animal rescue, prosthetics • Place to identify on a map: Florida 			
Potential Reader/Task Challenges					
<p>Students may rely too much on recall of the movie details and plot and not read carefully enough. Teacher should watch movie in advance and be ready to have students do close reading of book passages that are not similarly portrayed in the movie.</p>					
<p>Text seems simple and is more complex than it initially appears.</p>					

Big Takeaway

How can a physically challenged individual recover and prosper? How can people help others to become their most capable?

Additional Resources I found that can be used with this book:

Online article (Includes a video to go with the article):

Boy And Dolphin: A Prosthetic Pair

Posted : 09/5/2013

<http://gogonews.com/boy-and-dolphin-a-prosthetic-pair/>

Online article (Includes a video to go with the article):

The Amazing Tale Behind Winter's Bionic Tail

By Kavi Dolasia

<http://www.dogonews.com/2011/10/3/the-amazing-tale-behind-winters-bionic-tail>

Movie:

Dolphin Tale (2011)

113 min. Family Drama. September 2011 (USA)

Vocabulary Analysis Template

	Words that demand less teaching time (i.e. the definition is singular and concrete)	Words that demand more teaching time (i.e. words with multiple meanings and/or that are part of a word family)
Words that can be determined in context	Dedicated (Tier 1) Flexible (Tier 1) Mimic (Tier 1) Obstacle (Tier 1) Techniques (Tier 2) Evaluated (Tier 2)	Rigged (Tier 1) Prosthesis (Tier 3) Function (Tier 2)
Words that cannot be determined in context	Blowhole (Tier 3) Marine (Tier 3) Peduncle (Tier 3) Silicone (Tier 3)	