Text Complexity Analysis Template

Text complexity analysis			
Created by:	David Thoman	**Event/Date:**	August 1, 2014
Text and Author	The Battle of Stalingrad / author unknown	**Where to Access Text**	http://www.2worldwar2.com/stalingrad.htm

Text Description

The Battle of Stalingrad: Hitler's Greatest Defeat, describes Hitler's plan to defeat the Soviet Union during Operation Barbarossa in World War II. After failing to capture Moscow, he changed plans to conquer Stalingrad and the oil fields of the Caucasus region of the USSR. Initially, the German army is quite successful and is on the verge of forcing the Soviet army out of Stalingrad and across the Volga River. However, a change in leadership of the Soviet Army by Stalin and a "no surrender" policy finally stops the German advance. Hitler's change in plans to completely conquer Stalingrad causes him to weaken the defense of his supply lines. A concurrent build-up of Soviet forces to the north and south allows them to cut-off and surround the German 6th Army in Stalingrad. A combination of winter, lack of food and ammunition, and a failure by the Germans to reach the trapped 6th army causes the Germans to surrender. The defeat of German forces at Stalingrad is the point in World War II when the Germans are put on the defensive and are slowly beaten back by Allied armies until their final surrender in May of 1945.

Quantitative

Lexile and Grade Level	L1280 / Flesch-Kincaid 11.3	**Text Length**	2086 words

Qualitative

Meaning/Central Ideas	Text Structure/Organization
Hitler, once believed to be infallible, is finally understood to be capable of unreasonable demands, major errors in judgment, and irrational expectations that lead to the downfall of Nazi Germany in World War II.	Some graphics (pictures and a map) to show some important situations explained in the text, but they are not integral to a full understanding of the text. Organized in chronological order with headings that explain the situation prior to the battle, the ebb and flow of the battle, and the final outcome. Minimal quotes used.
Prior Knowledge Demands	**Language Features**
Requires and understanding of the relationship between Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union so that readers can understand the feelings that lead both leaders to refuse to give up the city of Stalingrad.	A formal description of the events of the Battle of Stalingrad. The author does include a few brief commentaries related to decisions made by major players and the outcomes caused by their decisions. There are a number of content area words related to World War II, the German and Soviet army, weaponry, and warfare.

Potential Reader/Task Challenges

1. The text requires a knowledge of terms related to World War II, Nazi Germany, and the Soviet Union.
2. The text requires an understanding of Hitler's control of Nazi Germany and the events leading up to the invasion of the Soviet Union.

Big Takeaway

The defeat of Nazi Germany in World War II was caused by a number of factors. Without the determination of the Soviet Union, the commitment of massive numbers of lives and material, and leadership that used a knowledge of its enemies weaknesses and its own strengths, the war could have gone on for years longer or have ended quite differently than it did.

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	- directive (Tier 1) - oil fields (Tier 1) - objective (Tier 1) - minimal (Tier 1) - outskirts (Tier 1) - reserve (Tier 1) - reinforcements (Tier 1) - killing zone (Tier 2) - rocket launchers (Tier 2) - encirclement (Tier 2) - captivity (Tier 1)	- front (Tier 2) - blitzkrieg (Tier 3) - secret police (Tier 3) - spearhead (Tier 3) - counter-attack (Tier 2) - censored (Tier 2)
Words that cannot be determined in context	- flank (Tier 2) - Caucasus (Tier 3) - Caspian Sea (Tier 3) - Volga River (Tier 3) - Stalingrad (Tier 3) - campaign (Tier 2) - granule (Tier 2) - elite (Tier 2) - repel (Tier 2) - sniper (Tier 3) - artillery (Tier 3) - mortars (Tier 3) - isolated (Tier 2) - sectors (Tier 2) - morale (Tier 2) - ultimatum (Tier 2)	- Soviet(s) (Tier 3) - USSR (Tier 3) - Russia (Tier 3) - Luftwaffe (Tier 3) - Stuka (Tier 3) - Romanian (Tier 3) - POWs (Tier 3) - Field Marshall (Tier 3)