Text Complexity Analysis Template

Text complexity analysis

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Text and Author	"Nobel Acceptance Speech" by Elie Wiesel	**Where to Access Text**	http://www.nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/peace/laureates/1986/wiesel-acceptance_en.html

Text Description

This is a speech given by Elie Wiesel upon accepting his Nobel Peace Prize for his novel *Night.* In this speech, the author uses a unique progression of ideas, point of view, and a variety of rhetorical devices to support his message that people must take action when there are injustices that violate human rights in the world.

Quantitative

Lexile/ Grade Level	Estimated 925L—10th Grade	**Text Length**	896 words

Qualitative

Meaning/Central Ideas	**Text Structure/Organization**
The speech implies that "To remain silent when injustices occur is to support injustice and to undermine human rights everywhere." This thesis is supported by the author's own experiences and the many allusions made in the speech.	The organization of this speech is creative and fluid; connections between the ideas presented are often implicit or subtle, and the combination of narrative and argument is unique. The author introduces the context of his speech and then elaborates on his experience in the Holocaust, using this as a foundation for his argument. He then explains why action is needed and uses a variety of allusions to show that right actions can be taken before concluding by returning to his personal experience.
Prior Knowledge Demands	**Language Features**
Given that the author is accepting his prize because of his memoir *Night*, details about the author's experience and writing are needed to appreciate the metaphors used. The many allusions used require prior knowledge of the following people and events: Nelson Mandela, Andrei Sakharov, Lech Walesa, Josef Biegun, Alfred Nobel, Raoul Wallenberg, Albert Schweitzer, Apartheid, the Holocaust, Israel/Palestine conflict. It might also be helpful for students to have read the Universal Declaration of Human Rights to understand the rights to which Wiesel refers. Also, students should have an introduction to rhetorical terms and devices to complete the rhetorical analysis. They need to be familiar with the concepts of theme, thesis, and point of view.	In this speech, the author uses Point of View creatively to advance his purpose; he both distances himself from his own experiences by making his past self a character in his speech and identifies himself as a survivor and proponent of the human rights struggles of the modern day. Rhetorical devices and techniques abound in this speech, including appeals to emotion (absolutes) and authority (allusions), rhetorical questions, repetition, parallelism, and metaphor. Word choice, while not archaic or overly complex, is powerful and connotative. Sentence fragments are purposefully used to punctuate ideas, and narrative techniques like a dialogue with the author's past self are used to impact the audience.

Potential Reader/Task Challenges
Students may struggle with following the organization of this piece and understanding rationale for the shifts in point of view. Aside from the challenge of the task of rhetorical analysis, readers will likely struggle with the prior knowledge demands required by the allusions made in the speech. Students may not otherwise recognize the value of the references as evidence for the author's arguments. Additionally, without prior knowledge of the novel that helped Wiesel win the Nobel Prize, they may not appreciate the significance of the repeated metaphor of the "kingdom of night." Preteaching with a jigsaw activity or a prior short research project would provide background in the absence of detailed footnotes.
Big Takeaway
Wiesel chooses a variety of rhetorical methods to move the audience both intellectually and emotionally to accept his thesis.

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	Plight Deplore Stifled Persecuted Dissident Insidious Naïve Abhorrent	Bestow (connotation)
Words that cannot be determined in context	Indifference Multitudes Perish Presumptuous Bewilderment Anguish Oppressor Profoundly Solitude Interminable Anti-Semitism Fiery (connotation) Altar (connotation)	Grace Transcends Identify (with)