Text Complexity Analysis Template

Text complexity analysis			
Created by:	Rachel Valentine	**Event/Date:**	TeachFest Connecticut: Summer Academy
Text and Author	A Monarch Butterfly's Life by John Himmelmann	**Where to Access Text**	Checkout from your library or Amazon

Text Description
A Monarch Butterfly's Life takes students on the journey of a Monarch butterfly's life cycle from egg to caterpillar to a grown butterfly who lays eggs of her own after flying from Connecticut to Mexico and back. The life cycle of the monarch butterfly is shown through simple and clear text. Each page includes one or two sentences that tell the story of a Monarch butterflies life. The drawings are realistic and show the students an up close view of each part of the life cycle. This book has features of nonfiction books such as rich vocabulary, realistic drawings, important words are written in italics and a glossary is included.

Quantitative			
Lexile and Grade Level	Kindergarten Read Aloud Lexile Level 300-399/ Grade Level 2.9 DRA 16 Guided Reading J	**Text Length**	320 words

Qualitative

Meaning/Central Ideas	Text Structure/Organization
The text describes two central concepts: - The Monarch butterfly has a life cycle. - Monarch butterflies and caterpillars have specific needs in order to survive (caterpillars only eat milkweed plants, butterflies need warm weather to survive)	This non-fiction text is arranged in the sequential order of the life cycle of the Monarch butterfly. Realistic drawings are included to help students comprehend the text.

Prior Knowledge Demands	Language Features
Students would benefit from some knowledge of butterflies and that different types of butterflies exist. Students may have some knowledge of the life cycle of the Monarch butterfly. This video clip will help activate prior knowledge: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7AUeM8MbaIk Students may also have some knowledge that living things have certain needs.	This is an informational non-fiction text with content specific vocabulary. A glossary is included at the end of the book. The sentences are simple and contain clear text that will be easy for students to comprehend.

Potential Reader/Task Challenges
he students may question what happens inside the chrysalis. Students may be confused by the fact that caterpillars are able to transform into a butterfly by going into the hard shell. Students may also need to look at a map of North America to see the migration of the Monarch butterfly in order to understand just how far a Monarch migrates in order to stay in warm weather. Students may also need more support sequencing the life cycle of a Monarch butterfly.

Big Takeaway
In *A Monarch Butterfly's Life*, John Himmelman teaches readers that Monarch butterflies have a specific life cycle. The text also teaches that Monarch butterflies and caterpillars have specific needs in order to survive.

This task supports the following common core standards:

Literacy.RI.K.1 - With prompting and support, ask and answer questions about key details in a text.

Literacy.RI.K.2 - With prompting and support, identify the main topic, and retell key details of a text.

Literacy.RI.K.4 – With prompting and support, ask and answer questions about unknown words in a text.

Literacy.RI.K.7 – With prompting and support, describe the relationship between illustrations and the text in which they appear.

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	- journey - laid - hatches - attaches - fence - silk - chrysalis - crumpled - flight - mate	- millions - milkweed plant - wasp
Words that cannot be determined in context	- Virginia - Mexico - Connecticut - Texas - South Carolina - August - north - south	**- Monarch - larva - offspring**