Text Complexity Analysis Template

Text complexity analysis

Created by:	Adam Fassanella	Event/Date:	TeachFest Connecticut: Summer Academy, July 2014
Text and Author	<u>Earth Dragon Awakes</u> by Laurence Yep	Where to Access Text	Journeys Anthology (ThinkCentral.com)

Text Description

This is a story of the 1906 San Francisco earthquake. A family of Chinese immigrants is buried in the rubble, escape, and help rescue others.

Quantitative

Lexile and Grade Level	Lexile: 510 Grade: 4	Text Length	Approximately 1,100 words

Qualitative

Meaning/Central Ideas	Text Structure/Organization
The big idea is the author's use of figurative language helping a reader experience a significant historical event more vividly. The author uses similes, metaphors, and personification to convey the destruction of the 1906 San Francisco earthquake. For example, "The bowl creeps across the table. Then even the table crawls away," and "Beneath them, unseen timbers crack like sticks."	The text is organized into a timeline, and alternates between narrative sections and more informational background sections. There are illustrations that support the entire story on every page.

Prior Knowledge Demands	Language Features
No prior knowledge is necessary to understand the events in this story. Through the characters the author shapes the reader's ability to make meaning of the text explicitly. Cultural references are explained through the narrative of the story.	The author uses vivid similes, metaphors, and personification throughout the text. This story is a section of a much longer novel, and the author includes a brief summary at the beginning explaining the characters, setting, and the events so far. Overall, the language will be familiar to a 4th grade student, with certain key word exceptions.

Potential Reader/Task Challenges

Students may find it challenging to relate to the events of an earthquake, and possibly the societal environment of Chinese immigrants at the turn of the century.

Big Takeaway

We want our students to understand, explain, and enjoy the author's craft and use of figurative language. The author brings to life historical, scientific, and societal information by writing concrete and abstract information in a very creative way. This corresponds to CCSS RL.4.4.

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	Landfill Rubble Timbers Wreckage Slab Possessions	Tenement Debris
Words that cannot be determined in context	Liquefaction	**N/A**