Text Complexity Analysis Template

Text complexity analysis			
Created by:	Cindy Marchell	**Event/Date:**	TeachFest Connecticut Summer Academy 2014
Text and Author	*Saving the Great White Monster* by Lauren Tarshis (author of the historical fiction ***I Survived*** series)	**Where to Access Text**	Story Works by Scholastic at Storyworks.com (this is a subscription site) http://storyworks.scholastic.com/resource/uploads_story/issues/020114/pdfs/STORYWORKS-020114-Nonfiction-LowerLexile.pdf

Text Description
"Saving the Great White" is a nonfiction magazine article. The article begins with the belief that sharks are the most feared creatures in the ocean. The author then explains the importance of sharks to the balance of the oceans ecosystem and students replace unwarranted fear with respect. It then introduces students to a problem that sharks are facing that could result in their extinction and how the organization Wild Aid along with celebrities, Yao Ming and shark-bite survivor Bethany Hamilton are fighting for a solution to save sharks. This article can has a great problem solution format or can be used to explore point of view.

Quantitative			
Lexile and Grade Level	690 Grade 3	**Text Length**	Approx. 1,000 words

Qualitative	
Meaning/Central Ideas	**Text Structure/Organization**
The central idea is that sharks are becoming endangered due to humans. Educating people and making them aware of how their wants and needs may negatively affect the delicate balance of ecosystems can be in important part of the solution. These ideas are developed over the course of the text.	Photos aid in the understanding of the text by giving more information to the reader about that section. The format is a magazine article with two columns. The headings contribute to understanding by stating the main ideas of each section. The structure begins with background knowledge and builds with related information in a problem/solution type format. There is an infographic that gives a clear example of why we need sharks inserted in the article.
Prior Knowledge Demands	**Language Features**
The text format is a two column magazine article. Students unfamiliar with this format will need some guidance. Also there is statistical data (see language features) that students may require aid in comprehending. The problem that the shark faces is due to the consumption of a ***delicacy*** in China called shark fin soup. The text does a nice job of explaining the idea of a "delicacy" in kid friendly terms but students may need additional support/discussion with the idea of supply/demand to fully understand what makes this a problem. Knowledge of ecosystems may be helpful in understanding the interactions between living and nonliving things. Reference is made to the food chain and is supported with an infographic.	Statistical data is embedded throughout the article and is helpful in understanding the text: • Your bite is three times as strong as that of a lion. • You can travel more than 10,000 miles in one year. • Over the past 10 years, an average of 100 million sharks have been killed every year. • A beachgoer is 15 times more likely to get killed by a falling coconut than by a shark. • The number of shark fins imported into China dropped by close to 30 percent.

Potential Reader/Task Challenges
The article asks the reader to read from the perspective of a shark. An emotional connection to the shark's plight is important to understanding the text.

Big Takeaway
Humans have hunted and used animals in many ways since the beginning of time. We all need to be responsible when fulfilling our wants and needs and think about the possible impact they may have on the earths delicate ecosystems.

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	Apex Predetor(Tier 3) Prowls (Tier 2) Extinction (Tier 2) Thrived (Tier 2)	Ecosystem (Tier 2) Delicacy (Tier 3) Endangered species (Tier 3) Impact (Tier 2)
Words that cannot be determined in context	Ruthlessly (Tier 2) Species (Tier 2) Pectoral (Tier 3) Dorsal (Tier 3)	**Wild Aid (Tier 3)** **Yao Ming (Tier 3)** **Bethany Hamilton**