

Text Complexity Analysis Template

Text complexity analysis			
Created by:	Kim Gott	Date:	TeachFest Summer Academy 2014
Text and Author	<i>Ruffled Feathers</i> by Brenna Maloney	Where to Access Text	<i>National Geographic Explorer</i> , May 2014
Text Description			
<p>In this text the author defines the terms physical and behavioral adaptations. Then she describes the step-by-step action of how 5 different birds find their food or defend their home or young. Throughout these action sequences she explicitly and implicitly asks the readers to ponder whether this is a behavioral or physical adaptation.</p>			
Quantitative			
Lexile and Grade Level	Grade 4	Text Length	5 Pages
Qualitative			
Meaning/Central Ideas		Text Structure/Organization	
<p>The article implicitly teaches readers the difference between physical and behavioral adaptations through descriptive action sequences of birds finding food and defending their home and young.</p>		<p>Text Features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Title/Subtitle • Headings • Photographs with captions <p>Glossary</p>	
Prior Knowledge Demands		Language Features	
<p>Students will need experiences with a variety of text features including headings and captions. They will also need stamina to follow the extensive description.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderately complex sentence structure: simple and compound sentences are found. • Moderately complex language with some new content vocabulary • Moderately complex conventionality 	
Potential Reader/Task Challenges			
<p>Although this article is engaging and accessible subject matter that is age appropriate, students may be challenged with a good amount of domain specific vocabulary and extensive description.</p>			
Big Takeaway			
<p>Students will be able to determine that the main idea of this text is that birds (animals) have inherited traits that allow them to survive. Both physical and behavioral traits help them to hunt, fight, mark their territory, and defend themselves. They will be able to explain how each bird is able to survive and discuss whether it does so with a physical or behavioral adaptation.</p> <p>The information learned in this article should allow students to explore other animals and determine their adaptations and whether the adaptation is physical or behavioral.</p>			

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	behavioral trait (tier 2) inherited trait physical trait trait predator prey camouflage territory	ruffled (tier 2) stomping spirals series of circles stores strikes traps fans
Words that cannot be determined in context	Tawny Frogmouth (Tier 3) Shrike Magnificent Frigate bird The secretary bird The northern Fulmar The Crested Bellbird The greater Honey guide	Ledges (Tier 2) cliffs generation shelter distracts