

Text Complexity Analysis Template

Text complexity analysis					
Created by:	Susan Hyatt	Event/Date:	Teachfest July 29, 2014		
Text and Author	Famous African Americans Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad	Where to Access Text	Readworks.org http://www.readworks.org/passage/famous-african-americans-harriet-tubman-and-underground-railroad		
Text Description					
This informational article is a short biography of Harriet Tubman.					
Quantitative					
Lexile and Grade Level	660/Grade 3	Text Length	181 words		
Qualitative					
Meaning/Central Ideas		Text Structure/Organization			
The meaning and central idea of this passage recognizes Harriet Tubman and her accomplishments. The “big ideas” can be easily inferred as long as adequate prior knowledge (listed below) is in place.		Main Idea/Supporting Details is the structure of this passage. The means of relaying the information is relatively basic and the connections between ideas are explicit.			
Prior Knowledge Demands		Language Features			
What is the Bible? Where is Egypt? Where is the American South? What is slavery? Who are African Americans?		There are several new vocabulary words presented in this text. Three words (route, skillful and establish) are in bold print and defined at the bottom. Several words (illegal, similar and spy) might be new vocabulary for students and would require exposure either prior to reading or during a discussion of the reading.			
Potential Reader/Task Challenges					
This article mentions the Civil War and the Underground Railroad, concepts which may be unfamiliar to some readers and probably not in the realm of prior knowledge. Additional instruction and discussion would potentially be necessary in using this article with third grade students.					
Big Takeaway					
The “big takeaway” is that Harriet Tubman devoted her life to helping others. The author demonstrates this by sequentially creating a relationship between a series of events in Tubman’s life. This leads the reader to the main, overarching meaning of the passage.					

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	route (Tier 2) skillful (Tier 2) establish (Tier 2) similar (Tier 2)	elderly (Tier 2)
Words that cannot be determined in context	illegal (Tier 2)	spy (Tier 2) Civil War (Tier 3) Underground Railroad (Tier 3) Bible (Tier 3)