# Text Complexity Analysis Template

| Text complexity analysis | | | |
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| **Created by:** | Sheila Lewis | **Event/Date:** | TeachFest CT: Summer Academy, July 2014 |
| **Text and Author** | "Paradise Lost" from Readworks.org | **Where to Access Text** | Readworks.org, Drawing Conclusions 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Unit http://www.readworks.org/passages/paradise-lost |

| Text Description |
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| **This is an informational text about the destruction of the Amazon rain forest and the causes of it. It begins with a description of the rain forest and then continues with what is causing the destruction and why it should matter to all of us. The reader is left with the question of how to solve the problem of deforestation.** |

| Quantitative | | | |
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| **Lexile and Grade Level** | 940, Grade 5 | **Text Length** | 400 words |

| Qualitative | |
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| **Meaning/Central Ideas** | **Text Structure/Organization** |
| People living in the rain forest are causing the rain forests to disappear by deforestation and over-population. This is affecting plant and animal life in the Amazon and beyond. This idea is somewhat explicitly stated but how this affects all of us needs to be inferred. | The organization of the text is moderately complex. Information is presented under 4 sub-headings which helps the reader to group the information. Vocabulary specific to this topic are bolded with 2 words found in the footnotes. Two graphics are included: a map to show readers where the Amazon rain forest is located, enhances the reader's understanding, and the other, a jaguar, not vital to understanding the passage. |
| **Prior Knowledge Demands** | **Language Features** |
| If a reader does not have prior knowledge of what a rain forest is, where the Amazon is located and what it means for a species to become extinct, this passage may be challenging. | Mostly contemporary and conversational with some unfamiliar, subject-specific vocabulary. Some of the tier 3 vocabulary words are defined in the text. Sentences are simple and compound with some complex constructions. |

| Potential Reader/Task Challenges |
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| If a reader has little to no knowledge of what a rain forest is and the animals and plants that inhabit it, this may be a challenge. If the reader does not make the connection of how scientists have discovered plants that have lead to new medicines, they may not realize the effect of losing a rain forest on all of mankind. |

| Big Takeaway |
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| Human activity is causing the Amazon rain forest to disappear. Brazil is over-populated and people need a place to live and make a living. The effects of deforestation will impact all of us. A solution needs to be reached that will retain the rain forest while providing for the needs of the people in Brazil. |

# 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)** |
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| **Words that can be determined in context** | Deforestation (tier 3)<br>Biodiversity (tier 3)<br>Macaws (tier 3)<br>Greenhouse gas (tier 3)<br>Population (tier 2) | Tropical (tier 2)<br>Landscape (tier 2) |
| **Words that cannot be determined in context** | Scarlet (tier 2)<br>Amazon (tier 3)<br>Slink (tier 2)<br>Region (tier 2)<br>Species (tier 2)<br>Carbon dioxide (tier 3)<br>Climate (tier 2) | Endangered (tier 2)<br>Brush (tier 2)<br>Lush (tier 2)<br>Extinct (tier 2)<br>Current (tier 2)<br>Poverty (tier 2) |