Text Complexity Analysis Template

Text complexity analysis		
Created by: Elisha Rose	**Event/Date:**	Teachfest CT July 29, 2014
Text and Author "Tracking Tornadoes" by Justin O'Neill	**Where to Access Text**	*Storyworks: Disaster and Survival* by Scholastic common core reader/magazine with 10 genres around one theme; available at http://storyworks.scholastic.com/

Text Description

This text is an informational text that discusses how technology has evolved to help scientist understand and track tornadoes which resulted in the development of a system for warning people of these impending destructive forces of nature.

Quantitative

Lexile and Grade Level	Lexile 1130L Grade 6-8 (although the Lexile level is above grade level, it is used in conjunction with other resources and within the context of a unit; with scaffolding/teacher guidance it can be used effectively and appropriately with 4th or 5th grade students)	**Text Length**	1 page (7 paragraphs; approximately 353 words)

Qualitative

Meaning/Central Ideas	**Text Structure/Organization**
This article has a clear purpose as to how and why scientists work to predict tornadoes.	This article combines descriptive, problem-and-solution, and chronological passages within a short text. The title contains a subtitle: "We can't stop tornadoes, but we're getting better at predicting them." It contains 7 bolded vocabulary words. There is one picture with a caption.
Prior Knowledge Demands	**Language Features**
Technology and science are heavily emphasized in this article. Prior knowledge about weather and tornadoes is highly beneficial. If read in order of when it is found within the *Storyworks* magazine, the previous articles will provide students with some solid background knowledge on these subjects.	Readers will encounter complex sentence structures and challenging domain specific vocabulary. The complexity of the language provides a significant opportunity for teaching various vocabulary comprehension strategies.

Potential Reader/Task Challenges

Readers may have difficulty with the rich, domain specific vocabulary words used within this text. Without previous discussions on the topic of tornadoes or specific vocabulary based lessons, students will struggle with the text. Due to the high Lexile level, students may not be able to read through the article independently.

Big Takeaway

The big idea that students should take away from this text is how technology has an impact on how we are able to improve our lives, specifically how it can help combat the forces of nature. The author's purpose for writing this text is to inform readers about the development and prediction of tornadoes. As a result of reading the article, students will use details from the text and make inferences in order to get to the big takeaway. (CCSS: L.RI.4.3)

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	• tornadoes (tier 3) • supercells (tier 3) • forecasting (tier 3) • destructive (tier 2) • technology (tier 2)	
Words that cannot be determined in context	• outbreak (tier 2) • radar (tier 3) • satellites (tier 3) • panic (tier 2) • prone (tier 2)	