

Text Complexity Analysis Template

Text complexity analysis			
Created by:	Hilary Evans	Event/Date:	TeachFest Connecticut: Summer Academy, July 2014
Text and Author	Abraham Lincoln by Berton Bellis	Where to Access Text	Search Library of Congress on-line
Text Description			
This poem in 4 stanzas is a tribute to Abraham Lincoln. The poem was written in 1919 and clearly credits Lincoln with much of the greatness of America long after he lived.			
Quantitative			
Lexile and Grade Level	6 th grade/ 6-8 Complexity Band	Text Length	204 words
Qualitative			
Meaning/Central Ideas		Text Structure/Organization	
Bellis presents Abraham Lincoln as a perfect being with no faults or flaws. In each stanza he contrasts Lincoln's challenges in life with his great contributions to his country.		The poem is written in four stanzas each with eight lines. In each stanza the 2 nd and 4 th line rhyme as do the 6 th and 8 th line.	
Prior Knowledge Demands		Language Features	
Students should have basic understanding of Abraham Lincoln.		The language is formal, archaic and rhythmic. The poem is narrative. The vocabulary is complex and many of the concepts are sophisticated and may be challenging.	
Potential Reader/Task Challenges			
There are many challenging terms and phrases. Students should get a basic understanding of the text during an initial reading. However, many of the concepts presented by Bellis will require further reading of the text and possibly some research to fully appreciate their meanings. Students may not recognize the way the author contrasts the struggles Lincoln faced during his lifetime with his (the author's) high praise of the man (Lincoln).			
Big Takeaway			
Students will closely read <i>Abraham Lincoln</i> by Berton Bellis to gain a further appreciation of the impact Lincoln had on the country not only during his lifetime but also long after his death. Students will understand how Bellis used the parameters of poetry and word choice to send a powerful message, which clearly addresses the author's point of view.			

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	Bitter sorrow Endless Ages Incased Awkward Everlasting	
Words that cannot be determined in context	Hewed Ten-fold Democracy Sacrifice Liberty Humble	Emancipator Columbia