Text Complexity Analysis Template

Text complexity analysis			
Created by:	Bill Heughins	**Event/Date:**	TeachFest Connecticut Summer Academy, July 2014
Text and Author	Chronicles of the Barbarians	**Where to Access Text**	http://www.fordham.edu/Halsall/sbook1k.asp#The%20First%20Crusade

Text Description
This is a speech given by Pope Urban which started the Crusades in October of 1095. The speech is in written form.

Quantitative			
Lexile/ Grade Level	1520L / 10th Grade	**Text Length**	2 pages

Qualitative	
Meaning/Central Ideas	**Text Structure/Organization**
Meaning and central idea of the text (feeding passion and fear within a community) is not explicitly stated but is the central idea of the text.	No graphics. Text feature used: headings and introduction. The heading helps to explain what the purpose and meaning is. It is a speech and is meant to bring out fear and passion. Biblical quotations used.
Prior Knowledge Demands	**Language Features**
Requires some discipline specific knowledge of the Crusading era and the importance of religion/Jerusalem at that time.	Use of many words students would not be familiar with. Creates graphic and illustrative language. It is a speech and it reads like a speech that has been transcribed. Some of the sentences are long and complex.

Potential Reader/Task Challenges
Engaging but difficult for 10th graders to read. Vocabulary could be difficult. Theme is challenging – yet students can relate to fear and passion as motivators for action. Students can connect to the dilemma of fear and the graphic/illustrative nature of the piece draws students in.

Big Takeaway
Fear and passion are powerful motivators. People are willing to travel 1000's of miles without the aid of modern transportation to kill people (even children) they don't even know. God and religion are powerful motivators to action.

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	• Beloved • Discourse • Imminent • Peril • Repeatedly • Pillage • Deprived • Anxiety • Perish	• Depopulated • Appropriated • Dismembered • Ignominy • Dissention
Words that cannot be determined in context	• Sepulcher • Pontiff	• Pilgrimage • Irreverently