

Text Complexity Analysis Template

Text complexity analysis			
Created by:	Colleen Gallagher	Event/Date:	7/29/2014
Text and Author	“Stellaluna” by Janell Cannon	Where to Access Text	Check it out at your school or local library
Text Description			
A baby bat is separated from her family and lives with a family of birds. She works hard to fit in with her new family despite her differences, but soon discovers her true family. Stellaluna also learns about true friendship.			
Quantitative			
Lexile and Grade Level	Lexile 600 Interest Level K-2 Meant to be used as a read aloud with first grade students.	Text Length	40 page (picture book)
Qualitative			
Meaning/Central Ideas		Text Structure/Organization	
Compare the main character’s experience as a bat to one as a bird. Question: How can the characters be alike yet different.		Each page contains text and illustrations to support the text. The text is sophisticated in that the author is providing the reader with factual information in a fictional character. The connections are implied as it is a fictional story, students will require background knowledge to understand the events.	
Prior Knowledge Demands		Language Features	
Students will need general background knowledge in the species of bats and birds. Accepting and understanding differences in others and ourselves. Cultural Bias: text-to-self connections can extend to students of adoption or foster care. Students can also relate to Stelluna by thinking about their families and friendships and how they do and don’t fit in.		The language is figurative and descriptive. Some vocabulary will be new and will provide rich vocabulary instruction with extension to writing. There will be a range of Tier I and Tier II vocabulary in the text.	
Potential Reader/Task Challenges			
If students do not have a strong enough background knowledge they may be challenged by distinguishing the difference between bats and birds. Students maybe caught up in understanding the vocabulary and have difficulty with comprehending the overall theme of the story.			
Big Takeaway			
Compare Stellaluna’s life as a bat with her life as a bird. How do we know it was hard for Stellaluna to be like the birds? In the end, Stellununa and her bird friends discuss how they feel so different yet are so much alike. Find evidence from the story to support that. Think about your families at home, at school, throughout your sports and activities. In what ways do you fit in with those families? In what ways are you different? Connect that to Stellaluna’s experiences.			
Literacy.RL.1.9 – Compare and contrast the adventures and experiences of characters in stories.			

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	Clutched (tier 2) Dodging (tier 2) Shrieking (tier 2) Trembling (tier 2) Daybreak (tier 1) Obey (tier 1) Gracefully (tier 2) Survived (tier 2) Swooped (tier 2)	Scent (tier 1) Limp (tier 2) Perched (tier 2)
Words that cannot be determined in context	Sultry (tier 2) Clambered (tier 2) Babble (tier 2) Embarrassing (tier 1) Clumsy (tier 2) Ached (tier 2) Peculiar (tier 2) Mused (tier 2)	Downy (tier 2)