

Text Complexity Analysis Template

Text complexity analysis			
Created by:	Ellen L. Repay	Event/Date:	TeachFest 2014, July 29, 2014
Text and Author	"Polar Bears by Gail Gibbons	Where to Access Text	library
Text Description			
<p>This is a non-fiction text that gives students information about all aspects of the life of Polar Bears, including the cultural and environmental factors that are impacting this animal population.</p>			
Quantitative			
Lexile and Grade Level	700 LAD Lexile; grade level 4.1	Text Length	30 pages
Qualitative			
Meaning/Central Ideas		Text Structure/Organization	
<p>Factual content is extensive and gives students comprehensive information about all aspects of polar bears. Included are the animal's physical characteristics, the climate it lives in, it's food sources, place in native Inuit culture, and global warming dangers.</p>		<p>Much informational text, with explicit, detailed illustrations of that content on each page, including scientific diagrams that support and extend student learning. Specific information is given concerning all aspects of the polar bear's life cycles in a sequential order, in addition to facts about habitat and conservation efforts. An additional page of interesting facts (i.e., "Polar bears have the same body temperatures as humans...") at the end of the book also helps students connect with the information.</p>	
Prior Knowledge Demands		Language Features	
<p>Knowledge of the effects of different climates, especially what it is like to live in a cold, snowy place, would be helpful before reading this book. A general knowledge of the life cycles of animals would be helpful, as well as an understanding of what conservation. A check of student's background knowledge should be done, as the content is intense and extensive for the first grade level, to enable the teacher to scaffold off whatever the students know about the topic. Also because of the content driven vocabulary, some words might have to be pre-taught. to aid in student understanding of the text.</p>		<p>The language of this book is narrative and conversational-easy to understand if the text is read in small chunks by the teacher, with appropriate discussion of unfamiliar words, phrases, and concepts.</p>	
Potential Reader/Task Challenge			
<p>The length of the book, packed with information on each page, will be challenging to the focus of most first graders. The terms used in the text, both the vocabulary and the captions of the illustrations, will also pose problems for this grade level (see prior knowledge demands above)</p>			
Big Takeaway			
<p>Polar bears are interesting animals that are well adapted to their habitat. The illustrations and information in the text (literacy RI. 1.7) enable the students to understand the complex factors that contribute to their ability to survive in the harsh Artic climate.</p>			

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	artic survive male female suckle carnivores miles kilometer	communicate climate solitary chemical frigid
Words that cannot be determined in context	howls blows dense hollow	hovering tundra heritage hostile hemisphere mate