

Text Complexity Analysis Template

Text complexity analysis			
Created by:	Jackie Vece	Event/Date:	Teachfest CT 7/29/14
Text and Author	Sunflower House by Eve Bunting	Where to Access Text	ISBN 0-15-201952-9
Text Description			
A young boy creates a summer playhouse by planting sunflowers and saves the seeds to make another house the next year.			
Quantitative			
Lexile and Grade Level	530L (end 1 st grade)	Text Length	29 pages with illustrations
Qualitative			
Meaning/Central Ideas		Text Structure/Organization	
The text displays different tones as the story unfolds. It starts off excitedly and hopeful. As it goes on, the tone becomes sadder, and characters begin losing hope. The tone changes again and shows characters who are hopeful again and excited about their new idea. There are also strong messages about life cycles, life and death, and unexpected outcomes in life.		This realistic fiction story uses illustrations that change over time through the growth of a plant. These illustrations are vital to understanding the deeper meaning of the text and the connection between the main character's emotions and the growth of the sunflowers. Connections between ideas are clear, and the text follows a chronological order, but without sufficient background knowledge on the content, the passage of time may be more difficult to comprehend. The text follows a clear sequence of events in order to convey the life cycle of plants and living things.	
Prior Knowledge Demands		Language Features	
Students would need prior knowledge of growth and death of plants and what plants need in order to survive. They would also need some approximate knowledge of how long it takes for plants to grow. Also, being able to make a connection to the characters feelings of hope, disappointment and excitement.		The language in the text is conventional and clear. It is written in standard English and is modern and conversational. The author uses literary devices such as metaphors, personification and symbolism.	
Potential Reader/Task Challenges			
Comprehending the deeper message and theme in this book may be very difficult for younger students. The author also uses a variety of figurative language that would need further discussion in order to understand.			

Big Takeaway

Students should be able to comprehend the deeper meaning of the story. They should be able to explain how the children's emotions changed throughout the story and why. They should be able to talk about how living things grow and change and eventually die. They should also see the connection between the changing plants and the changing emotions of the main character, and the turmoil he felt when he realized that his plans to build a house did not work out the way he expected.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • impossible 	
Words that cannot be determined in context	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • weeds • shoo • pesky • mammoth • frilly • tinged • tumbling • rumbling • bulge 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sow • guaranteed