

Text Complexity Analysis Template

Text complexity analysis			
Created by:	Lori Andrada	Event/Date:	TeachFest Connecticut: Summer Academy, July '14
Text and Author	<u>The Tree Lady: The True Story of How One Tree-Loving Woman Changed a City Forever</u> by H. Joseph Hopkins	Where to Access Text	Purchase the text or borrow it from your school or local library
Text Description			
The story of Katherine Olivia Sessions, a remarkable girl born in the 1800's, tells how Sessions went beyond people's expectations throughout her life, culminating in making San Diego the lush city that it is today. This narrative biography picture book will inspire students from first to sixth grade with its theme of perseverance and determination.			
Quantitative			
Lexile and Grade Level	Lexile: 760, 2 nd Grade	Text Length	32 pages with illustrations
Qualitative			
Meaning/Central Ideas		Text Structure/Organization	
<p>One central idea of this book is perseverance or determination.</p> <p>Another main idea of the text that is less easily inferred is that our reactions to the events in our life influence the person that we become and the contributions we make to society. This central idea must be inferred from the key details and the sequence of events of the story of her life.</p>		<p>Although this text follows the chronological structure of a simple narrative, it is an informational text as well. It does not have all of the text features of a typical informational text. The complexity of the book comes from the work the reader must do to connect the events of Kate Session's life and how they led to the person she became and the contributions that she made to horticulture science and the city of San Diego. The illustrations in this book can help the reader to understand the meaning of the text. The reader can also use both the text and the illustrations to determine some of the deeper points of the text.</p>	
Prior Knowledge Demands		Language Features	
<p>To understand the text, students need to know that expectations for girls and women were different in the 1800's and early 1900's than they are now. They also need to understand the biome of a desert and how that affects what types of trees can grow there. Students this age are familiar with narrative stories, but may not have been exposed to biographies and to informational text told in a narrative form. Therefore, they may need assistance in understanding which parts of the book are facts.</p>		<p>The vocabulary in this text includes a combination of words that are familiar and literal and some words that will be new. Parts of the text can provide an opportunity to introduce figurative language and connotative language to 2nd graders.</p>	
Potential Reader/Task Challenges			
The vocabulary, text, and content of the book will require some unpacking for 2 nd grade students. The text would be best shared initially as an interactive read aloud where the teacher can assist with these elements.			
Big Takeaway			
With perseverance and dedication, Kate Session was able to accomplish things that people thought weren't possible. In <i>The Tree Lady</i> , H. Joseph Hopkins, shows how Kate Session's response to the events in her life influenced the person that she became and the contributions she made to society. (Literacy.RL2.3)			

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	<p>canyons (Tier 3) elms (Tier 3) oaks (Tier 3) eucalyptuses (Tier 3)</p> <p>Scientific names of trees from an illustration: Quereus agrifolia, Ulmug Americana, Sequoiadendron giganteum (Tier 3)</p> <p>Parts of a plant from an illustration: chloroplast, cytoplasm, cell wall (Tier 3)</p> <p>Common names of some trees from an illustration: Yucca, Eucalyptus, Aleppo Pine, Boojum, Quiver Tree, Jacaranda, Italian Cypress, Bristlecone Pine, Brazilian Pepper, Palm Tree, Naked Coral Tree, Dragon Tree (Tier 3)</p>	<p>discouraged (Tier 2) steep (Tier 2) palms (Tier 3)</p>
Words that cannot be determined in context	<p>graduated (Tier 2) degree (Tier 2) college (Tier 2) grazed (Tier 2) century (Tier 2) stroll (Tier 2) magnificent (Tier 2)</p>	<p>microscope (Tier 2) docked (Tier 2) desert (Tier 2) plaza (Tier 2) nursery (Tier 2) sustain (Tier 3) lush (Tier 2)</p>