Text Complexity Analysis Template

Text complexity analysis			
Created by:	Penelope Igo-Clark	**Event/Date:**	TeachFest Connecticut: Summer Academy, July '14
Text and Author	Halley Came to Jackson Written and Performed by Mary Chapin Carpenter	**Where to Access Text**	Local Library

Text Description
This song captures the momentous night in 1910 when a father held his baby in his arms as Halley's Comet streaked across the sky. It celebrates the special love shared between a father and a daughter and how life's magical moments remain with us throughout our lives.

Quantitative			
Lexile and Grade Level	Kindergarten (read aloud)	**Text Length**	approximately 200 words

Qualitative	
Meaning/Central Ideas	**Text Structure/Organization**
The central idea of this song is the special love between a father and daughter as the father brings his infant daughter over to the window to witness the visit of Halley's comet in 1910. The father makes a special wish for his daughter (which is not said, just inferred) as he observes the comet. At the end of the song, 76 years later, his wish came true.	The story starts off in the year of 1910 and then jumps ahead 76 years later to the year 1986. This is important since the comet comes around to Earth every 76 years. The illustrations support how people lived in 1910.
Prior Knowledge Demands	**Language Features**
Students will need to know what comets are and how they can be cyclical in nature as they travel. They also need to have some background knowledge of life in the early 1900's.	This is a song that has image rich lyrics, such as "to see a bit of heaven shoot across the sky", "it came from the east just as bright as a torch", and "it's tail stretched out like a stardust streak". Some students may not know what the word "amen" means in context. There will need to be lots of discussion about why the author chose these words and why.

Potential Reader/Task Challenges
Kindergarten students may not understand the love the father has for his daughter by his wish for her to see the comet 76 years later.

Big Takeaway
I want my students to see the love between a parent and child over time and how the author showed it in relationship to a comet.

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	still (tier 1) windowsill (tier 2) neighbors (tier 1) comet (tier 3) porch (2) wish (tier 1)	tail (2) charms (2) papers (2) 'round (2) sound (2)
Words that cannot be determined in context	east (tier 2) torch (tier 2) amen (tier 2) 1910 (tier 1) Jackson (tier 2) stretched (tier 1) 1986 (tier 1) heavenly (tier 3) Halley (tier 2) wondered (tier 2) stardust (tier 3)	