

Text Complexity Analysis Template

Text complexity analysis			
Created by:	Patricia Scully	Event/Date:	TeachFest Summer Academy July 2014
Text and Author	"The Story of Ruby Bridges" by Robert Coles	Where to Access Text	Scholastic.com
Text Description			
<p>Ruby Bridges and her family move from Mississippi to New Orleans in 1960 in search of a better life. When it was time for her to go to school, a judge orders her to attend an all-white school. Ruby must face angry crowds of shouting people alone. This is her story of courage and faith in a society full of racism.</p>			
Quantitative			
Lexile and Grade Level	Grade 5.4: 730L AD	Text Length	26 pages with illustrations
Qualitative			
Meaning/Central Ideas		Text Structure/Organization	
<p>Meaning and Central ideas are facing adversity, hate, racism with compassion, faith, courage and hope. Explicit examples are included in text and illustrations. The main character arises from hate and racism by standing firm in her belief in faith.</p>		<p>Narrative Literature with illustrations. Plenty of quotations. No headings. A chronological summary of events in the main character's life during this time period. Introduction and afterword sections.</p>	
Prior Knowledge Demands		Language Features	
<p>Some life experiences of a child the same age as main character necessary. Social concepts and experience in faith, praying, and going to church and school, moving, experiencing racism. Some geographic knowledge of USA, some understanding of legal system.</p>		<p>Contemporary and conversational language. Familiar and easy to understand. Some new vocabulary.</p>	
Potential Reader/Task Challenges			
<p>Very emotional subject matter. Very engaging. Age appropriate for grades 2-5. Most students would have experiences to connect with the story. A moral of the story/author's message would be to remain true to your convictions despite severe adversity. Readers may be challenged to understand what motivated her opponents and/or the societal beliefs and expectations of the time period the story took place in. Some background knowledge concepts that may help the reader identify with the story would include moving, being poor, facing hatred, living in the South, moving forward with your decision despite severe adversity, practicing faith.</p>			
Big Takeaway			
<p>In The Story of Ruby Bridges, her life story gives the reader examples of personal characteristics that helped her and her family overcome obstacles to make their lives better. Faith, courage, persistence, and believing in one's self are among these personal attributes the main character and her family display in order to achieve their dream.</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	<p>Janitor Cabin Separate</p>	<p>Poor Barely Worked Moved Folks Times Receive Fair</p>
Words that cannot be determined in context	<p>Spirit Law Good Names Kept Arrest Order Successful Businesswoman embracing</p>	<p>Black White Trouble Credit Company Get down Business Mobs Wear down desegregated</p>