Text Complexity Analysis Template

Text complexity analysis			
Created by:	Susan Caldwell	**Event/Date:**	TeachFest Connecticut Summer Academy Tuesday July 29, 2014
Text and Author	Auntie Yang's Great Soybean Picnic Story by Ginnie Lo, Illustrated by Beth Lo	**Where to Access Text**	Hardcover book purchased through BarnesandNoble.com ISBN 978-1-60060-442-3

Text Description

Two Chinese sisters, who came to America for college and could not return to China due to the war, make their lives in the United States. They miss their siblings in China and keep their culture alive for their families by getting together often. On one of their visits they discover a field of soybeans, a favorite Chinese food. Soon they are having Chinese families from all over the Chicago-land area come for soybean picnics**.**

Quantitative

Lexile and Grade Level	Lexile 960 grade 2 read aloud	**Text Length**	32 pages

Qualitative

Meaning/Central Ideas	**Text Structure/Organization**
This multicultural text shows Chinese Americans which allows these students to see themselves in literature. Family customs and cultural continuation are explicitly described. Empathy for immigrants can be implied. The benefits of an expanded family are explored.	The text is organized as a personal narrative. The illustrations are done by one of the characters, painted on ceramic plates, and they support the meaning of the text. At the end of the story are photographs and notes about the picnic and characters as well as some additional information about soybeans (this section could be used for close reading and annotating). There is also a glossary that includes the words in Chinese characters.
Prior Knowledge Demands	**Language Features**
Prior knowledge of family customs, cultures, and food should be activated. . Children may locate China, Chicago and Indiana. Children may need to be exposed to soybeans. Understanding of immigration is necessary.	The conventionality is fairly complex with some figurative language. The vocabulary is fairly complex as there is the use of Chinese names and words (e.g. Pei, Ping, mao dou, eight treasures rice). The sentence structure is a mixture of simple sentences and complex sentences with subordinate phrases and transition words.

Potential Reader/Task Challenges

This text has fairly complex language that is unfamiliar due to the use of Chinese words.

Big Takeaway

How do the characters in this story respond to their homesickness?
In Auntie Yang's Great Soybean Picnic the importance of culture continuation is the theme. Auntie Yang and her sister miss their homeland and overcome this by continuing their culture in the United States. As a result of this they garner an extended family of Chinese immigrants in their area.
RL. 2.3 Describe how characters in a story respond to a major events and challenges.

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	• Baba (Tier 3) • Chi fan le(Tier 3) • Dao le(Tier 3) • Emperor(Tier 2) • Huan ying(Tier 3)	• Mao dou(Tier 3) • Mahjong(Tier 3)
Words that cannot be determined in context	• Jinyi (Tier 3) • Pei(Tier 3) • Ping(Tier 3) • Yellow mountain(Tier 2) • Bean thread(Tier 3) • Dumpling(Tier 2) • Eight treasure rice(Tier 3)	