

## Text Complexity Analysis Template

Text complexity analysis			
<b>Created by:</b>	Tori Basso	<b>Event/Date:</b>	Teachfest Connecticut 2014
<b>Text and Author</b>	Dear Mr. Blueberry, by Simon James	<b>Where to Access Text</b>	<a href="http://www.amazon.com">http://www.amazon.com</a>
Text Description			
<p><b>Dear Mr. Blueberry is a series of letters written between a young girl, Emily, and her teacher, Mr. Blueberry. Emily writes about seeing a whale in her pond and would like information on whales from her teacher. The teacher writes back, explaining why there couldn't be a whale in her pond and includes facts to support his reasons. They exchange letters throughout the summer and through them, Emily learns facts from Mr. Blueberry and he learns to use his imagination from Emily.</b></p>			
Quantitative			
<b>Lexile and Grade Level</b>	660L    Grade Level 2-3	<b>Text Length</b>	24 pages
Qualitative			
Meaning/Central Ideas		Text Structure/Organization	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Characters express different points of view through letter writing.</li> <li>Facts can help to convince someone of your opinion.</li> <li>It's fun to use your imagination.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Each page is a letter, alternating between Emily and Mr. Blueberry.</li> <li>Every other page is an illustration that shows Emily's imagination, or the reality (when Mr. Blueberry is writing), corresponding to the text.</li> <li>A combination of fiction and non-fiction.</li> </ul>	
Prior Knowledge Demands		Language Features	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Familiarity with letter writing format.</li> <li>Understanding the difference between fact and fiction, real and make believe.</li> </ul>		Familiar, easy to understand language. The word, "migratory" is used, followed by its definition. Factual information about whales given by Mr. Blueberry. Conversational tone with questions and answers in letters back and forth between teacher and student.	
Potential Reader/Task Challenges			
This text is intended as a read aloud for younger students. Students will need to know that the book's format is a series of letters. It is also helpful for them to know that parts of the book are real, and parts are make believe. Fiction and non-fiction are interwoven throughout as the teacher tries to convince Emily that she couldn't have a whale in her pond.			
Big Takeaway			
Readers should notice that the characters express different points of view in their letters. The tone of each letter reflects the imagination of a child or the logic of an adult. Students may also distinguish their own point of view from that of Emily, or Mr. Blueberry. (CCSS L. RL.2.6)			

## Vocabulary Analysis Template

	<b>Words that demand less teaching time (i.e. the definition is singular and concrete)</b>	<b>Words that demand more teaching time (i.e. words with multiple meanings and/or that are part of a word family)</b>
<b>Words that can be determined in context</b>	salt water (tier 2) shrimplike (tier 3) forcibly (tier 2) migratory (tier 3)	spurt (tier 2) stroke (tier 2)
<b>Words that cannot be determined in context</b>	sincerely (tier 2) perhaps (tier 2)	