

Text Complexity Analysis Template

Text complexity analysis			
Created by:	Laura Sindoni	Event/Date:	10/24/14 – TeachFest
Text and Author	The Seasons of Arnold's Apple Tree, Gail Gibbons	Where to Access Text	The Seasons of Arnold's Apple Tree, Gail Gibbons, Voyager Books, 1984
Text Description			
<p>This informational text follows a little boy named Arnold and his activities with his special apple tree. The book progresses through the four seasons, and describes the changes to the tree and the ways in which Arnold uses it.</p>			
Quantitative			
Lexile and Grade Level	n/a	Text Length	28 pages
Qualitative			
Meaning/Central Ideas		Text Structure/Organization	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The purpose is to show how Arnold's tree changes throughout the year, as the seasons change. - The author proceeds through the seasons and describes the way in which Arnold uses the tree as its appearance changes. <p>Complexity Level: Moderately</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Organization follows the patterns of the seasons and is sequential. - Text features (apple pie recipe and apple cider press) enhance the reader's understanding of content but not directly so - Use of Graphics - mostly supplementary to understanding the text, help students understand the text/vocabulary introduced - There are illustrations on each page that correspond with the text. <p>Complexity Level: Moderately</p>	
Prior Knowledge Demands		Language Features	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This text requires subject matter knowledge that the seasons/weather change, with which most readers will be familiar. - More challenging concept is the cyclical characteristic of the seasons - Intertextuality - no references to outside texts; need some knowledge of basic weather patterns <p>Complexity Level: Moderately</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conventionality: explicit, literal, straightforward, easy to understand - - Vocabulary: mostly contemporary, familiar, conversational, but with many new vocabulary words introduced throughout the book - Approximately one unfamiliar vocabulary embedded per sentence - Sentence Structure: primarily simple sentences with a few compound sentences <p>Complexity Level: Very</p>	

Potential Reader/Task Challenges

The amount of new vocabulary introduced may hinder the reader's overall comprehension of the story. The concept of seasonal change may be foreign to some readers (those who live in parts of the country that do not follow the seasonal pattern in the book).

Big Takeaway

Though its uses and appearance change throughout the year, Arnold's tree is important to him throughout the different seasons. For example, in the summer, Arnold uses the tree as shade from the summer sun and as shelter from a summer shower. In the winter, Arnold builds a snow fort around the bottom of his tree.

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)
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<p>Words that can be determined in context</p>	<p>juggling (II) decorate (II) arrangement (II) nectar (II)</p>	<p>buds (II) blossoms (II) gather (II) bare (II) drift (II) shades (II) shelter (II)</p>
<p>Words that cannot be determined in context</p>	<p>Cider press (III)</p>	<p>company (II) secret (II) rustle (II) direction (II)</p>