

Text Complexity Analysis Template

Text complexity analysis			
Created by:	Christina Altieri	Event/Date:	TeachFest Connecticut: Summer Academy 2014
Text and Author	Ice City by Jeff Ives	Where to Access Text	www.Readworks.org
Text Description			
<p>This text is an opinion piece about the winter festival in Harbin China. The author provides a topic sentence stating that the festival is both freezing and fun, and then goes on to prove those statements with specific facts about the event.</p>			
Quantitative			
Lexile and Grade Level	Lexile 880 4 th – 5 th Grade	Text Length	237 Words
Qualitative			
Meaning/Central Ideas		Text Structure/Organization	
<p>The big idea is clearly stated in a topic sentence. It is then backed up with factual evidence in an organized text structure. The ideas can be easily inferred and there is only one level of meaning.</p>		<p>The text is organized as a piece of non-fiction opinion writing. There is a topic sentence and an introduction paragraph. There is then two paragraphs to prove the opinion. There are also headings to fit the non-fiction aspect of the writing.</p>	
Prior Knowledge Demands		Language Features	
<p>You must have prior knowledge of what it is like to visit or be in a winter setting and what types of events you might do in winter, or what it feels like to be in cold temperatures. The reader must also have knowledge of a festival and what you might do at a festival. To visualize a comparison you must have knowledge of the size of a swimming pool. There is some other visualization as well.</p>		<p>Overall the vocabulary in this text should be familiar to students. There are some tier 2 words such as transforms, tourist attraction, and sculpture. Many of these words provide their meanings within the context clues. There is some language, which requires visualization and imagery.</p>	
Potential Reader/Task Challenges			
<p>This article will allow students to see a non-fiction opinion piece written in a 4-paragraph text structure with an introduction and conclusion. Students should be able to identify the topic sentence, which states an opinion, and identify the text evidence to support that opinion. Students should also be able to identify the author’s bias and purpose for writing this opinion piece. This text also follows the format of a non-fiction piece with headings and organization. I also think students could use this as a model, using this structure, to write their own non-fiction opinion piece. Students can also identify the author’s craft in sentences where he includes visualization and imagery.</p> <p>Challenges: Some of the vocabulary in the introduction could be a challenge for students. As well as some of the numerical facts, explaining about Fahrenheit temperatures and the amount of snow the location receives. Background knowledge about attending a festival</p>			
Big Takeaway			
<p>The key idea for students to take away from this text is the format of a non-fiction opinion piece. They should understand they need a topic sentence and be able to identify it in a piece of writing, as well as locate or provide text evidence to prove these opinions stated in the text. By doing this they should also be able to understand the author’s bias, or their purpose in writing this piece.</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>Sculptures (Tier 2) Opportunity (Tier 2)</p>	<p>Harbin (a city in northeastern China) (Tier 3)</p>
Words that cannot be determined in context	<p>Festival (Tier 2) Tourist attraction (Tier 2) Fahrenheit (Tier 2)</p>	