

Text Complexity Analysis Template

Text complexity analysis			
Created by:	Christine Lang	Event/Date:	Teachfest July 29, 2014
Text and Author	"Gettysburg: A costly win for the North" Marylou Tousignant	Where to Access Text	Reprinted from the Washington Post Kid's Post with permission.
Text Description			
<p>This text is a non-fiction newspaper article that gives a brief account of the Civil War. The causes of the war are briefly discussed along with the significance of Gettysburg. The article gives a description of Pickett's Charge which will engage the students. The article concludes with descriptions of actual people who participated in the war and the task of reuniting the country. Statistics from the Gettysburg battle are included.</p>			
Quantitative			
Lexile and Grade Level	Lexile 800-890 Grade 4	Text Length	1065 words
Qualitative			
Meaning/Central Ideas		Text Structure/Organization	
<p>Meaning and central idea of the text (cost of the Civil War to Americans) is somewhat explicitly stated in the article. The different sections of the text give clear and concrete examples of the price that was paid for this war, especially the battle of Gettysburg.</p>		<p>Pictures included. Organization of text is evident and generally sequential. Headings are used to introduce topics which enhances the reader's understanding. The use of graphics enhances the reader's understanding of the content.</p>	
Prior Knowledge Demands		Language Features	
<p>Some discipline-specific content knowledge is needed to understand this article. Includes mostly simple ideas. No references to other texts and ideas. There should be a follow-up article that should be used after the students learn some background knowledge.</p>		<p>Figurative language is evident in this article. Vocabulary is subject-specific but recognizable to the student. Sentence structure does include complex sentences.</p>	
Potential Reader/Task Challenges			
<p>Engaging and accessible subject matter that is age-appropriate for 4th grade. Students will enjoy the subject matter. Student will need some background knowledge to understand text. Great tool for teaching text-based evidence. Main idea should be easily identified. Author's purpose is evident.</p>			
Big Takeaway			
<p>Students will see that war should not be glorified. Connections can be made to other wars going on around the world. War pulls people apart and can cause death and destruction.</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>Confederate (Tier 2) Artillery (Tier 2) Scurrying (Tier 1) Clustered (Tier 1) Commanders (Tier 2)</p>	<p>Threaten Assaults (Tier 2) Bayonets (Tier 2) Sabers (Tier 2) Held (Tier 2) Birth (Tier 2) Disabled (Tier 2) Rally (Tier 2) Flooded (Tier 2)</p>
Words that cannot be determined in context	<p>Summit (Tier 2) Clash (Tier 2) Union army (Tier 2) Faced off (Tier 3) Decisive (Tier 2) Hand to hand Regiment (Tier 2) Division (Tier 2)</p>	<p>Plantations (Tier 2) Slavery (Tier 2) Cheap labor (Tier 3) Knockout blow (Tier 3)</p>