

Text Complexity Analysis Template

Text complexity analysis			
Created by:	Christine Mercier	Event/Date:	Connecticut TeachFest Summer Academy
Text and Author	Abe's Honest Words by Doreen Rappaport	Where to Access Text	School or local library
Text Description			
<p>This biographical text provides readers with an in depth look at the life of Abraham Lincoln. It focuses on his early challenges and passions. Lincoln's love of country and his passion for words lead Abe toward future successes in his role as US President.</p>			
Quantitative			
Lexile and Grade Level	780L, Grade 4	Text Length	~1,367
Qualitative			
Meaning/Central Ideas		Text Structure/Organization	
<p>The purpose of this text is to inform readers about the personal experiences that shaped the life of Abraham Lincoln. The text includes direct quotations from famous speeches and also provides insight in regards to Lincoln's own character traits, his leadership skills, and the motivating factors that influenced his presidency. This biography also touches upon historical events that occur during Abe Lincoln's lifetime, and more specifically throughout his time in office.</p>		<p>The organization of the text is moderately complex. The author incorporates specific dates and puts events in time order. The author shares Lincoln's personal thoughts and feelings (direct quotations) on some pages. The speeches are presented in italic form, and are highlighted in blue. Additionally, the author provides various viewpoints since many Americans did not share Lincoln's views.</p>	
Prior Knowledge Demands		Language Features	
<p>This text assumes prior knowledge of US history in relation to the Civil War era. For example, the author discusses concepts such as slavery and breaking away from the Union. This brings into focus the controversy within our nation during this time period.</p>		<p>The language is somewhat formal and has a serious tone. The sentence structure is primarily simple, yet it becomes more complex when Abe's words are being used. There are also some content-specific, Tier 3 vocabulary words. The many illustrations definitely support the text and help to make the overall meaning more explicit.</p>	
Potential Reader/Task Challenges			
<p>Understanding the elements of a biography might be challenging for some students. Students will need to identify main ideas and character traits for Abe Lincoln throughout the text. The setting or Civil War era is another challenge because of the historical events that are presented to readers. The direct quotations taken from Abe Lincoln's famous speeches will need to be discussed and analyzed for implied meanings. Additionally, the terminology used within the text will be challenging for some fourth graders.</p>			
Big Takeaway			
<p>The qualities of an effective leader such as compassion, honesty, and perseverance are examined in this text. These qualities are demonstrated through the actions of President Lincoln, especially by signing the Emancipation Proclamation, which ended slavery. Lincoln's ability to gain trust through his words and their everlasting effect are significant to the overall meaning of the text. The author's point of view is that unity and freedom are paramount to our nation's identity. Ultimately, Abraham Lincoln protected the ideals of liberty that bind our nation together.</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>haste (Tier 2) divided (Tier 2) shattered (Tier 2) tension (Tier 2) Emancipation (Tier 3) opposed (Tier 2) perish (Tier 2) Union (Tier 3) territories (Tier 3)</p>	<p>address (Tier 2) ferried (Tier 2) unpresidential (Tier 3) rebellion (Tier 2)</p>
Words that cannot be determined in context	<p>Proclamation (Tier 3) malice (Tier 2)</p>	<p>proposition (Tier 2) vain (Tier 2) conceived (Tier 2)</p>