

Text complexity analysis			
Created by:	Denica Burnell	Event/Date:	TeachFest Summer Academy, July 2014 Hartford, CT
Text & Author:	“Slavery, the Civil War & Reconstruction: The Emancipation Proclamation” - ReadWorks.org	Where to Access Text:	www.readworks.org
Text Description			
This text is an informational article introducing Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation. This text gives the reader a brief excerpt of the speech, along with some background information about the time period and how those connect to the Emancipation Proclamation.			
Quantitative			
Lexile/ Grade Level	820L; 5 th Grade	Text Length	~ 400
Qualitative			
Meaning/Central Ideas		Text Structure/Organization	
The central idea of this text passage is that Lincoln is declaring an end to slavery – whether states are a part of the Union or not. This is explicitly stated as the article provides the reader with additional information about this time period. However, it is assumed that the reader is aware of the differences of the Union versus Confederacy, as well, as the importance of slavery to the South during this time period.		This non-fiction text includes a brief excerpt from Lincoln's speech. The text also features bold words with footnotes to alert the reader to look at the bottom of page where these challenging vocabulary words are defined.	
Prior Knowledge Demands		Language Features	
This text is Social Studies content driven. Students should have basic background knowledge of the Civil War and slavery, however, this text explains the importance of the Emancipation Proclamation and how it came about. Familiarity with informative writing will assist the reader in recognizing text structures/features.		The language in this text is grade-level appropriate, with a few challenging vocabulary words. Some of the challenging words are defined at the bottom of the selection, where others are content-based and may need more explanation.	
Potential Reader/Task Challenges			
This text could be challenging for readers without the background knowledge of the Union versus Confederacy, slavery – including why slavery was important to the southern plantation owners. Without this knowledge of how slavery supported the south, the reader will have difficulty understanding why the Southern states were against abolishing slavery.			
Big Takeaway			
The Emancipation Proclamation was the first big step to ending slavery, however, the North and South responded differently to this step. The North was for ending slavery and it wouldn't alter their way of life very much. Life in the South would be changed drastically if slavery was abolished. Slaves were used to work on the plantations in the South.			

Vocabulary Analysis

	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 are part of a word family)
Words that can be determined in context	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⤴ Secede ⤴ cruel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⤴ Declaration ⤴ abolitionists ⤴ institution
Words that cannot be determined in context	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⤴ Rebellious ⤴ liberty ⤴ equality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⤴ Emancipation ⤴ Proclamation ⤴ Union ⤴ Confederacy