

## Text Complexity Analysis Template

Text complexity analysis			
<b>Created by:</b>	John Niemann	<b>Event/Date:</b>	Connecticut TeachFest Summer Academy
<b>Text and Author</b>	Sailing for Freedom	<b>Where to Access Text:</b>	www.readworks.org
Text Description			
<p><b>Students will learn the history of the original Amistad. The article informs the readers of the history of slavery in Connecticut and how the slaves were able to eventually gain their freedom through resistance and a U.S. Supreme Court trial. I chose this text because it has several excellent examples of non-fiction text features and helps students to learn the historical significance of the Amistad. This article is free and available from <a href="http://www.readworks.org">www.readworks.org</a>.</b></p>			
Quantitative			
<b>Lexile and Grade Level</b>	660 (3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade)	<b>Text Length</b>	1 page
Qualitative			
Meaning/Central Ideas		Text Structure/Organization	
The big ideas of this text include slavery, the slave trade, and the path to freedom for the African Americans who were forced into slavery.		The text is written in a typical, sequential format for a historical non-fiction text.	
Prior Knowledge Demands		Language Features	
Students should have prior knowledge of slavery, nautical terminology, and geography.		This text has several examples of non-fiction text features (i.e. bolded words, heading, pronunciation key, headings, italicized words). The text also has several examples of proper nouns (i.e. Sierra Leone, Joseph Cinque, Caribbean Sea)	
Potential Reader/Task Challenges			
There are no graphics for students to view. Students need to know how to use bolded words to determine the meaning of unknown words.			
Big Takeaway			
In 1839 African Americans were kidnapped from Sierra Leone and forced into slavery. Joseph Cinque led a successful rebellion to control the ship, but was tricked into sailing back to Connecticut. The trial was held and the African Americans regained their freedom and were able to return to Sierra Leone. Literacy RI 3.2 – Determine the main idea of a text; recount the key details and explain how they support the main idea.			

## 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>leader kidnapped ship</p>	<p>Reproduction rebel (rebelled, rebellion)</p>
Words that cannot be determined in context	<p>chains control country</p>	<p>Aboard trial U.S. Supreme Court Slavery</p>