

Text Complexity Analysis Template

Text complexity analysis			
Created by:	Karen Libby	Event/Date:	TeachFest- July 29, 2014
Text and Author	"The Junkyard Wonders" by Patricia Polacco	Where to Access Text	Scholastic Books
Text Description			
Narrative realistic fiction picture book about a girl who goes to live with her father in Michigan. She is placed in a special class where the students are known as "Junkyard Wonders". Their teacher refers to them that way while encouraging them to believe in themselves and use their unique talents. Their peers on the playground ridicule them but together they form a community of "different" children who bond, learn to believe in themselves and form lifelong friendships crowned by wonderful accomplishments.			
Quantitative			
Lexile and Grade Level	660L, DRA 38, Level P, GL 3.8, Grades 2-3	Text Length	Picture book 25 pages
Qualitative			
Meaning/Central Ideas		Text Structure/Organization	
The themes of believing in yourself regardless of others' opinions and overcoming obstacles are easy to understand and reinforced throughout the story.		The text is realistic fiction written in narrative structure. It follows a chronological order.	
Prior Knowledge Demands		Language Features	
Students may find it helpful to know the concept of genius, diabetes, Tourette's As well as other Tier 2 vocabulary		May be some challenging decoding/vocabulary for readers on the low end of the range. Some figurative language.	
Potential Reader/Task Challenges			
Themes: The beauty and uniqueness of all individuals. Seeing the wonder and possibility in life and learning to believe in one's self. She plane flying to the moon analogy. The demands on the reader are more conceptual and emotional. The children are bullied because of their uniqueness and a child dies. This book will prompt some sensitive discussion, particularly in regard to the label, "Junkyard Wonders".			
Big Takeaway			
Theme: In Junkyard Wonders, Patricia Polacco teaches the power of believing in oneself and the beauty and wonder of possibility. She teaches her students that they are all geniuses in their uniqueness. She encourages them to form bonds by grouping them in "tribes". She gives them badges that say, "The Junkyard Wonders" and she tells them that the junkyard is a "place of wondrous possibilities. "What some see as bent and broken throwaways are actually amazing things waiting to be made into something new". In the end, their life accomplishments proved that she was right.			

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>podium acquired propulsion perception summoned unanimous Vibraphonium</p>	<p>Foster Concept/definition of genius according to the text</p>
Words that cannot be determined in context	<p>engineering magnified certainty gawky boundaries defy (gravity) constraints stupendous perpetual brusque tics Tourette's university stratosphere</p>	