

Text Complexity Analysis Template

Text complexity analysis			
Created by:	Keri Snowden	Event/Date:	Teach Fest; July 29, 2014
Text and Author	<i>Number the Stars</i> by Lois Lowry; Chap. 2	Where to Access Text	Scholastic, Amazon
Text Description			
<p>Number the Stars is a historical fiction novel set during WWII. It is the story of the occupation of Denmark by Nazi soldiers during WWII and the removal of Jewish Danes during the Holocaust. The excerpt from chapter 2 is about the main character, Annemarie, recalling a story that her father told her about their beloved King, Christian X. Annemarie is beginning to understand the complex concepts of leadership and loyalty.</p>			
Quantitative			
Lexile and Grade Level	670, Grade 5.1, Guided Level U	Text Length	Novel: 137 pages Excerpt: 5 pages (12-16) Words: Approximately 900
Qualitative			
Meaning/Central Ideas		Text Structure/Organization	
Through a story about subjects protecting their king, the reader infers the meaning of loyalty. When the characters discuss the difficult decision their king made in surrendering to the Nazi army before being decimated, the reader grapples with what makes an effective leader.		No graphics. The excerpt contains a flashback and then a present day discussion between characters. Dialogue is used.	
Prior Knowledge Demands		Language Features	
To understand this excerpt, students will need background knowledge on the causes and major events of WWII including who the Nazi soldiers are and why they occupied several countries in Europe. Students will also need to understand the basic idea of the Holocaust.		Some figurative language such as: "All of Denmark is his bodyguard," and "She imagined the pink strip of Norway being crushed by a fist." These phrases are central to the themes presented.	
Potential Reader/Task Challenges			
Students might not understand how children such as Annemarie would be willing to die for their king. This is something even adults would not typically be expected to do in the U.S. today. Students might also have difficulty understanding why a country would surrender to another without fighting at all. The U.S. is a powerful nation that rarely shrinks from a fight.			
Big Takeaway			
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.5.2 Determine a theme of a story, drama, or poem from details in the text, including how characters in a story or drama respond to challenges or how the speaker in a poem reflects upon a topic; summarize the text. Citizens show respect for effective leaders. Sometimes being an effective leader means responding to challenges by making difficult decisions.			

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>Denmark (Tier 3) Enormous (Tier 2)</p> <p>Copenhagen (Tier 3) Fiercely (Tier 2)</p> <p>Suitable (Tier 2) German (Tier 3)</p> <p>Greeted (Tier 2) Holland (Tier 3)</p> <p>Dim (Tier 2) Belgium (Tier 3)</p> <p>Bodyguard (Tier 3) France (Tier 3)</p> <p>Crocheting (Tier 3) Sweden (Tier 3)</p> <p>Norway (Tier 3) Kattegat (Tier 3)</p>	<p>Christian (Tier 3)</p> <p>Subjects (Tier 2)</p> <p>Surrendered (Tier 2)</p> <p>Citizen (Tier 2)</p>
Words that cannot be determined in context	<p>Solemn (Tier 2)</p> <p>Errand (Tier 2)</p> <p>Amused (Tier 2)</p> <p>Trousseau (Tier 3)</p> <p>Intricate (Tier 2)</p> <p>Nazi (Tier 3)</p>	