

Text Complexity Analysis Template

Text complexity analysis			
Created by:	Martha Wyatt	Event/Date:	TeachFest - July 29, 2014
Text and Author	<i>Song and Dance Man</i> by Karen Ackerman	Where to Access Text	Tradebook
Text Description			
<p>Three children visiting their grandfather learn about the “good old days” before people sat for hours in front of the television set. Grandpa takes the children up to the attic where he stores an old dusty leather trimmed trunk. Inside the trunk are hats, tap shoes and a cane. While the children try on hats, Grandpa puts on his tap shoes and bowler hat. He picks up his cane and dances for his grandchildren. His dancing sounds like “rain falling on a tin roof.”</p>			
Quantitative			
Lexile and Grade Level	780L Grade 3 DRA 34	Text Length	32 pages – 5 pages used in this lesson
Qualitative			
Meaning/Central Ideas		Text Structure/Organization	
<p>The attic becomes a vaudeville stage when Grandpa shares his tradition of tap dancing with his grandchildren just as he did in the “good old days,” when he was a song and dance man.</p>		<p>The text is in narrative form with many illustrations. Each page seems to purposefully reveal Grandpa’s personality. The author employs a great deal of figurative language to incite the senses when describing Grandpa and his dancing.</p>	
Prior Knowledge Demands		Language Features	
<p>Student background knowledge should be built around entertainment and the performing arts, <i>specifically tap dancing</i>. Use videos and photos of vaudeville to help understand what entertainment looked like in the “good old days.” Also use realia like a cane, top hat or tap shoes to make the experience more concrete for some learners, i.e. ELL students.</p>		<p>The author employs figurative language to describe Grandpa and his dancing – “<i>sounds like a woodpecker tapping on a tree;</i>” “<i>voice as round and strong as a canyon echo.</i>”</p>	
Potential Reader/Task Challenges			
<p>This passage could potentially challenge student knowledge of what a song and dance man is, what he does and when they were around. Additional challenges will be the figurative language that describes the main character (Grandpa) and his dancing.</p>			
Big Takeaway			
<p>The story is told from the children's point of view showing the reader how much they appreciate their grandpa (the older generation). In addition, it helps the younger generation understand that there was a true form of entertainment before the age of television.</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><i>attic (tier 2)</i></p> <p><i>powder on the floor (tier 3)</i></p> <p><i>show time (tier 2)</i></p> <p><i>slippery (tier 2)</i></p> <p><i>silvery (tier 2)</i></p> <p><i>gliding (tier 2)</i></p> <p><i>stage (tier 2)</i></p> <p><i>rain on a tin roof (tier 3)</i></p> <p><i>canyon echo (tier 3)</i></p> <p><i>bowler hat (tier 3)</i></p> <p><i>silver dollar (tier 3)</i></p> <p><i>hiccups (tier 3)</i></p>	
Words that cannot be determined in context	<p><i>nostalgia (tier 2)</i></p> <p><i>good old days (tier 3)</i></p> <p><i>old soft shoe (tier 3)</i></p> <p><i>vaudeville (tier 3)</i></p> <p><i>(grand) finale (tier 2)</i></p>	