

Text Complexity Analysis Template

Text complexity analysis			
Created by:	Susan Klosowski	Event/Date:	TeachFest Connecticut: Summer Academy
Text and Author	"Eleven" by Sandra Cisneros	Where to Access Text	Women Hollering Creek
Text Description			
<p>This is a short personal narrative depicting one seemingly small event that occurs on a girl's 11th birthday. It is a story of how a young child feels when embarrassed and how powerful that moment can be.</p>			
Quantitative			
Lexile and Grade Level	960 lexile, Grade 4	Text Length	900-1200 words
Qualitative			
Meaning/Central Ideas		Text Structure/Organization	
<p>Growing up is challenging and painful at any age but with experience comes strength and wisdom. In the text, a young school aged girl faces a humiliating experience where a teacher embarrasses her and makes her feel helpless. The little girl loses control over her emotions and cries and sobs in a very dramatic fashion, and expresses to the reader that she wishes she were older because she knows when she is older she will be better equipped to handle life's harshness.</p>		<p>Personal narrative full of figurative language and inference. This personal narrative goes back and forth between talking to the reader and expressing her feelings outside of what has happened to taking us through the moment.</p>	
Prior Knowledge Demands		Language Features	
<p>Figurative language and inference.</p>		<p>There are very few challenging vocabulary words which help make the text accessible. However, there is heavy use of inference and figurative language that slowly lead the reader to the author's meaning. This text is full of natural stopping points that lend themselves to closer reading of text. Exploring the notion of being every age you have already been when you turn a new age is one such opportunity. It is a wonderful place to look at the author's craft as well as inferring.</p>	
Potential Reader/Task Challenges			
<p>Finding the big idea/ author's message/theme(s) will be challenging.</p>			
Big Takeaway			
<p>In "Eleven" ironically the main character seems full of wisdom about how aging brings perspective and an ability to handle difficult situations. However she herself at this point is unable to handle what, to many, would seem a small difficult situation. The young girl states "I wish I was 102 because at 102 I would have known what to say when..." The character understands that at 11 she is limited in her ability to handle her embarrassment. Although she understands that someday she will be old enough to handle life and its challenges, at her age she still acts overwhelmed when difficulties arise. She consequently breaks down in heaving sobs as a reaction to the embarrassment and ultimate relief over the situation. She is learning that age brings wisdom and perspective but also that pain and feelings are ageless.</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		Rattling (Tier 2) Raggedy (Tier 2)
Words that cannot be determined in context		