

Text Complexity Analysis Template

Text complexity analysis			
Created by:	Tamara Brierley	Event/Date:	Teachfest 2014 Summer Academy 7/29/14
Text and Author	"A Very Messy Tea Party" –W. M. Akers	Where to Access Text	ReadWorks.org
Text Description			
<p>This is an informational passage that explains some of the causes that led up to The Boston Tea Party. The passage introduces students to some background knowledge of why tea was so important to the colonists and to Britain. The author breaks up the text into sub-sections discussing the monopoly deal made between England and the East India Tea Company. The author also explains Britain's tax on tea and the development of the "Sons of Liberty." The author then describes the actual Boston Tea Party event.</p>			
Quantitative			
Lexile and Grade Level	1100	Text Length	806
Qualitative			
Meaning/Central Ideas		Text Structure/Organization	
<p>The meaning behind the text is to inform students about one of the most important incidences that led to the start of the Revolutionary War between England and the Colonies, The Boston Tea Party. It is very straightforward and focused on this specific event. The author does however show the background and the reactions of both sides.</p>		<p>No graphics. The headings shed light on the topic to be discussed and created transitions between the events leading up to the Boston Tea Party. The author organizes the passage sequentially and the reader is able to follow the events in chronological order. The author uses cause and effect relationships to explain the how the relationship between Britain and the Colonies began to unravel.</p>	
Prior Knowledge Demands		Language Features	
<p>It will be helpful for students to have some prior knowledge on the colonies and their development. The Author is clear enough that the students will understand what is going on without a background, but the impact will be greater if students have already studied colonial America.</p>		<p>The text has both literal and connotative language features. Students will have to make meaning of the title "A Very Messy Tea Party," as it is not what they would understand a "typical" tea party to be.</p>	
Potential Reader/Task Challenges			
<p>Some challenges that student might face are new vocabulary words and new concepts such as "taxation without representation."</p>			
Big Takeaway			
<p>Students will be able to understand the causes that led up to the Boston Tea Party and how that influenced the direction of the Revolutionary War. The students will analyze the text for cause and effect relationships. "How does the author's use of Cause and Effect help you understand the story?"</p> <p>CCSS: RL 5.4 and RL 5.5 (In conjunction with another text about the same subject)</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>Monopoly (2) Smugglers (2) Fortune (2) Outraged (2) Representatives (2) Frigid (2)</p>	
Words that cannot be determined in context	<p>Parliament (3) Tradition (2) Shilling (3) Assured (2)</p>	<p>Revolution (2)</p>