

Text Complexity Analysis Template

Text complexity analysis			
Created by:	Kristina Nero Rodriguez	Event/Date:	TeachFest July 28, 2014
Text and Author	"Those Winter Sundays" by Robert Hayden	Where to Access Text	http://www.poets.org/poetsorg/poem/those-winter-sundays
Text Description			
<p>This poem is based on the childhood experience of the author. Hayden was adopted by a strict Baptist who was a manual laborer. Hayden reacted negatively to the strict attitude his adoptive father expressed, and this poem reveals Hayden's reflection on his own behavior with a possible suggestion that he regrets acting negatively towards his father.</p>			
Quantitative			
Lexile and Grade Level	Fry Reading Level = 7.5	Text Length	98 words 14 lines in 3 stanzas
Qualitative			
Meaning/Central Ideas		Text Structure/Organization	
<p>The speaker/author is trying to explain his behavior towards his father and apologize for his own past behavior.</p> <p>There are multiple levels of meaning. The speaker seems to be split in two; he's both a child and an adult. Therefore, this poem provides both viewpoints. The shift in lines 12 and 13 shows the speaker's revelation that he was unaware of the ways his father showed him love, and now as an adult he realizes that although "austere" and "lonely," his father was in fact loving and deserving of gratitude.</p> <p>Another source of multiple meaning comes from the various meanings of Hayden's diction. Example: offices (line 14). Suggests a dutiful love as well as a monastic position in the Christian church.</p> <p>Big ideas are not stated explicitly. In the final stanza, Hayden reveals his internal conflict that could be taken as regret, sadness, bitterness, etc. There are a number of ways to interpret the way he feels.</p>		<p>There is a shift in the author's attitude in lines 12 and 13.</p>	
Prior Knowledge Demands		Language Features	
<p>If a teacher would like to look closely for <i>allusions</i>, the following can be analyzed. However, there is not a demand for this knowledge, and it does not affect the reader's initial ability to make meaning from the poem.</p> <p>*References to Christianity *Reference to "chronic" = Greek mythological figure, Cronus (son eats his own offspring for fear of their revolt).</p>		<p>*Sonic devices creating a dramatic effect. *Connotative language affects the tone</p> <p>*The language in this poem may seem simple on the surface, but there are many levels of complexity when given a close reading</p>	

Potential Reader/Task Challenges

This text provides great opportunity for practicing inference skills – students will need to “read between the lines” in order to make deep connections and identify the theme as well as the following:

Point of View, Internal Conflict, Tone, Connotation (analyzing the feeling and meaning of specific word choice in context).

Big Takeaway

The students will interpret words and phrases as they are used in a text, including determining connotative meanings and analyze how specific word choice shapes the tone.

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	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ached 2. Fearing 3. Blaze 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Blueblack 2. Banked 3. Splintering 4. Angers
Words that cannot be determined in context	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Polished 2. Austere 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Chronic 2. Indifferently 3. Offices