

Text Complexity Analysis Template

Text complexity analysis			
Created by:	Lisa Henríquez	Event/Date:	TeachFest: Summer Academy 2014
Text and Author	“ Last of the original Navajo code talkers dies at 93”	Where to Access Text	Newsela June 11, 2014
Text Description			
<p>In 1942 Chester Nez would get punished at his Arizona school if he spoke in his second language, Navajo. Ironically, it was that same language, the Navajo language that got him into a top secret group that was vital in helping the American Marines in WWII. At that time Native Americans were hardly recognized as citizens in our country but they were needed in the military. This article highlights the work of Navajo code talkers and their role in the US military. Chester Nez was the last of these American heroes to die.</p>			
Quantitative			
Lexile and Grade Level	1050L grade 7	Text Length	829 words
Qualitative			
Meaning/Central Ideas		Text Structure/Organization	
<p>The meaning and central idea was the important role of Navajo code talkers in our history. The last of these code talkers died. The reader does not find out if any others have carried on this language. The underlying tone of discrimination towards Native Americans is easily inferred.</p>		<p>This non fiction article opens with a picture of Mr. Nez. It is written in third person with a few quotes from Nez throughout his life during interviews. It is broken down into 4 sections with subheadings.</p>	
Prior Knowledge Demands		Language Features	
<p>Pre-teaching of U.S/American Indian relations would be helpful. Students don't have to have a specific knowledge of U.S/Japan relations in WWII but an overall refresher would help. There are cultural references to Navajo, Native Americans and U.S military. There are no references to other texts.</p>		<p>Some Navajo words are mentioned with translation. (Wol-la-chee,” the Navajo word for “ant,” represented A, “na-hash-chid,” the word for “badger,” was B, “moasi,” the word for “cat,” was C, and so on.) The language is literal, direct and contemporary. Some tier 2 words include: critical, barred, boarding, layer, proposed, campaign and operation.</p>	
Potential Reader/Task Challenges			
<p>Students might not know about racism towards Native Americans in U.S history. A challenge for students might be to understand that Mr. Nez has died and the quotes in the article are not him speaking now, but taken from past interviews and events.</p>			
Big Takeaway			
<p>The last of the original Navajo code talkers died at age 93. The purpose of the article is to reinforce that speakers of second languages are valuable in every society and the Navajo code talkers were vital in helping the U.S military in WWII.</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	Swift Bitter Unbreakable Battlefields Outwit Allies Accuracy	Elite Decade Rejection Recruiters Appealed Emerged Translated Decipher
Words that cannot be determined in context	Code Civilian Blasted	Critical Barred Boarding Proposed Layer Campaign Operation