

Text Complexity Analysis Template

Text complexity analysis			
Created by:	Mary Fuller	Event/Date:	TeachFest – Hartford, CT July 29, 2014
Text and Author	“Los 15: Orígenes y tradiciones”	Where to Access Text	PDF – retrieved from Univision 3/26/2004
Text Description			
<p>This is a non-fiction informational article in Spanish that talks about the origins and traditions around the celebration of a Quinceañera. The article gives a brief introduction and comparison to a Bat Mitzvah or a Sweet 16. Indigenous roots are explained and some traditions from Mexico and Central America are given.</p> <p>This text is an authentic text using the definition from ACTFL; that is, written by native speakers, for native speakers. This is not an adapted text.</p>			
Quantitative			
Lexile and Grade Level	Proficiency level would be a better descriptor Novice mid (after 135 to 150 hours of language instruction)	Text Length	Approximately 500 words
Qualitative			
Meaning/Central Ideas		Text Structure/Organization	
The meaning and central ideas of this text center on the historical origin of the Quinceañera. A Quinceañera is a Hispanic girl celebrating her 15 th birthday and/or the celebration around the birthday. It is also referred to as Los Quince, or simply Quince. Some traditions surrounding the celebration are also discussed. The text has only a single meaning, an informational text explicitly stating the traditions and history.		The title of the text is self-explanatory. The text is organized using subheadings. The paragraphs are short. The paragraphs can be understood fairly easily after some vocabulary is taught. It is written in the style of a Lifestyle article in a newspaper. One picture is used to illustrate a Quinceañera dressed to celebrate her birthday.	
Prior Knowledge Demands		Language Features	
Students need to know the basis for the religious part of the celebration. Clothing vocabulary and vocabulary for a party would be helpful.		The article uses contemporary Spanish. There are many English cognates (Spanish words that are the same, or similar to their English counterparts) which will aid comprehension. The text is mostly written in the present tense. Some vocabulary would need to be specifically taught.	
Potential Reader/Task Challenges			
Some of the vocabulary may be difficult even with pre-teaching. Students will need to read for “gist”, and then in closer reading, pick up the unfamiliar vocabulary. The article should be of high interest since many students have attended Quinceañera celebrations. It is important to note that the expectation for comprehension of an authentic text may be as low as 30-40% for novice readers. There is not an expectation that novice readers will have a full translated comprehension of the article. Because of the amount of cognates in this reading, students should have an understanding of the celebration, and the indigenous origins.			
Big Takeaway			
The Quinceañera is a Latin tradition that is rooted in family. There is a tradition of celebrating a young woman’s entry to adulthood that traces back 500 years, pre-Columbus, to the Maya and Aztec civilizations. Today, some celebrations are both religious and secular, others are simply secular. The celebrations range from extravagant celebrations, using fairy-tale imagery to more modest family celebrations.			

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	Cognates: celebración celebrar ritual transición existe ceremonia	anglosajones niñez
Words that cannot be determined in context	luciendo situados damitas de honor chambelanes	era – past tense of ser haber + do - present perfect tense direct object placement