

Text Complexity Analysis Template

Text complexity analysis			
Created by:	Kimberly Kreft	Event/Date:	7/29/2014
Text and Author	The Happy Hedgehog by Marcus Pfister	Where to Access Text	Amazon or Scholastic
Text Description			
<p>Genre: General fiction</p> <p>Mikko the hedgehog is happy with the way his life goes until he is challenged by his grandfather to accomplish something more. Mikko talks with other animals and tries to make a change in his life to be happy and successful.</p>			
Quantitative			
Lexile and Grade Level	360L, DRA: 30, Guided Reading N, Grade level 3.3	Text Length	24 pages
Qualitative			
Meaning/Central Ideas		Text Structure/Organization	
<p>Animals and Character values.</p> <p>The text uses a grandfather that is critical of his nature-loving grandson to show how the young happy hedgehog is happy but challenged to change, do, accomplish, and work hard to succeed. In the end, the hedgehog determines that his love of nature is a valuable talent and is enough to make him happy. Students may experience some of the challenges Mikko must overcome such as peer pressure, self-doubt, bullying, self-discovery, and being unique.</p>		<p>The text begins with the hedgehog happy, but is soon disturbed by criticism. He goes on an adventure to see how others find happiness. The story comes full-circle when he realizes he was happy all along, and that he does not need to change to be happy. Grandfather comes to appreciate the hedgehog's knowledge about plants and herbs as he benefits from their healing powers. The illustrations provide a helpful visual to show the characters' emotions and events in the story.</p>	
Prior Knowledge Demands		Language Features	
<p>There are animals in nature mentioned as characters including hedgehog, tortoise, hare, badger, and ants. Each animal has a certain strength that they hone in on to make them happy, by being the strongest, the fastest, the cleverest. Hedgehog attempts to mimic these animals with little success and no happiness.</p>		<p>The author uses some challenging vocabulary with many context clues to assist the reader. There is a mix of dialogue and inner thoughts of the main character, Mikko. The hedgehog has revelations about each part of his journey and shares his learning with the reader as he goes through the forest. The author uses literal language and explicit life lessons. The animals have human-like traits and desires.</p>	
Potential Reader/Task Challenges			
<p>It may be difficult for readers to relate to the harsh words from the grandfather. Typically, grandparents are warm and supportive family members. So it may be surprising that he uses words like "useless" and "good-for-nothing" to describe Mikko. The book comes to an end and the reader must assume that grandfather appreciates Mikko in the end. It is inferred that with grandfather sipping tea and making himself comfortable, he now approves of Mikko's choice to be a nature lover and plant researcher.</p>			
Big Takeaway			
<p>The author's message is that everyone finds happiness in different ways. What makes one person happy may not be a pleasant pursuit for another person. Outside influences and opinions can be difficult to ignore. Having self-confidence can be challenging when others have negative words. Even those that love us may have difficulty understanding and accepting our unique talents and abilities. Ultimately, doing what makes us happy is the best choice!</p>			
<p>Literacy.RL.2.3 Describe how Mikko responds to grandfather's criticism in the beginning of the story. What does he learn about himself through his journey?</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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • impossible (tier 2) • wondered (tier 2) • knapsack (tier 2) • scurrying (tier 2) • glance (tier 2) • sprained (tier 2) • herbs (tier 2) • healing (tier 2) • amphibians (tier 3) • accomplish (tier 2) • observing (tier 2) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • useless (tier 1)
Words that cannot be determined in context	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • hobbled (tier 2) • hoarse (tier 2) • miserable (tier 2) • cleverest (tier 2) • squatting (tier 2) • lounging (tier 2) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ambitious (tier 2) • striving (tier 2) • contentment (tier 2) • content (tier 2) • ridiculous(tier 2) • shattered (tier 2)