

Text Complexity Analysis Template

Text complexity analysis			
Created by:	Lisa Burton	Event/Date:	TeachFest Connecticut: Summer Academy July 2014
Text and Author	"The Hat" by Jan Brett	Where to Access Text	Check out from your school or local library
Text Description			
<p>This text is a fiction story that includes some figurative language (idioms). Through a variety of animal characters, the story is presented in a fun, engaging way to capture children's attention. During the story, the animals compete against one another to fit in. At the beginning, a hedgehog accidentally gets stuck inside a woolen stocking but pretends he meant to do that. Each animal he comes upon is fooled into thinking the hedgehog purposely donned the woolen to keep himself warm. As a result, each animal ends up wearing a piece of winter woolens in an interesting way, thinking that he is just as fashionable and smart.</p>			
Quantitative			
Lexile and Grade Level	Grade 1 (done as a read aloud)	Text Length	28 pages Several sentences per page
Qualitative			
Meaning/Central Ideas		Text Structure/Organization	
<p>The meaning and central idea of this story is presented via words and illustrations and is relatively straightforward and clear to the listener. The story is mainly about how a simple untruth can change the way other people respond. In this story, peer pressure becomes a guiding force for all the animals involved.</p>		<p>This book has detailed illustrations on every page, which help in foreshadowing the next event as well as clearly depict the current situation in the different settings of the story. Illustrations are highly supportive to predict the upcoming characters.</p>	
Prior Knowledge Demands		Language Features	
<p>Explores several animals which may be unfamiliar to students but do not interfere with understanding of central theme of story. Experiences portrayed are uncommon to most readers. However, the humor with which this story is presented easily draws listeners into the plot.</p>		<p>The language is generally explicit and easy to understand with some occasions of more complex language format (idioms). Some examples are: "the last straw", "flipped his gizzard".</p>	
Potential Reader/Task Challenges			
<p>The subject matter of this fictional text is engaging and humorous and will quickly and easily draw listeners in. Students should have the background knowledge of the season of winter and the clothing that goes along with it. Understanding some of the characters' reactions may be difficult for ESL students who have limited knowledge of basic vocabulary and/or idioms.</p>			
Big Takeaway			
<p>Children should be able to recall story elements (character, setting, problem, solution, events) with a particular emphasis on multiple settings presented in the story (RL1.3). Students should be able to identify the following settings: outside in the yard in winter and inside Lisa's house.</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>woolens stocking prickles clucked gander brambles yelped squealed den clothesline</p>	<p>magnificent</p>
Words that cannot be determined in context	<p>cocked</p>	<p>embarrassing “flipped his gizzard” “the last straw”</p>