

Text Complexity Analysis Template

Text complexity analysis			
Created by:	Tricia DeLapp	Event/Date:	TeachFest Connecticut 2014
Text and Author	<i>Chameleon's Colors</i> by Chisato Tashiro	Where to Access Text	ISBN-0-7358-1887-8 Local Library
Text Description			
<p>This story tells the tale of a Chameleon who is unhappy that he keeps changing colors to match his surroundings. He feels like no one ever sees him. His friend, Hippo thinks it would be fun to change from his plain old muddy gray to a different color. The characters learn that problems often arise when they try to change who they are.</p>			
Quantitative			
Lexile and Grade Level	First Grade Read Aloud	Text Length	32 pages
Qualitative			
Meaning/Central Ideas		Text Structure/Organization	
<p>The author's message of this text is to be proud of who you are instead of trying to be something you are not. Readers must infer this message, as it is not explicitly stated. At the beginning of the story, Chameleon is unhappy because he keeps changing colors to match his surroundings and nobody can see him. By the end of the story he has learned that changing his appearance can cause problems and conflicts.</p> <p>This book is an excellent tool for teaching visualization. The author's word choices lend themselves to this skill. For example he writes, "Trembling, Chameleon closed his eyes, turned the color of the rocks and waited... Suddenly a clap of thunder roared through the sky and huge sheets of rain poured down."</p>		<p>The text is in chronological order and uses temporal words and phrases such as "that night", "the next day", and "when the sun came up" to help readers follow the structure of the text. The detailed illustrations will help readers infer how the characters are feeling. The author uses ellipses to show pauses in speech. The story contains dialogue. It is all tagged to the characters that are speaking.</p>	
Prior Knowledge Demands		Language Features	
<p>Most topics will be familiar to young students but they should have some knowledge of animals and feelings, including jealousy.</p>		<p>The text of this piece is mostly explicit and easy to understand. It is a narrative with dialog back and forth between characters. There are some vocabulary words that children will need support with such as, surroundings and popular.</p>	
Potential Reader/Task Challenges			
<p>Readers may have trouble determining the author's message: be true to yourself and proud of who you are. Teachers can provide scaffolding by modeling how to determine an author's message with similar texts. Inferring how a character is feeling can be challenging for young students. Modeling how to use words from the text and details from the pictures will help students become comfortable with this skill.</p>			
Big Takeaway			
<p>In <i>Chameleon's Colors</i>, author Chisato Tashiro teaches the lesson that you should be proud of who you are instead of trying to be someone you are not. He uses a series of events in which the Chameleon learns first hand to be proud of who he is and the problems that can occur when he attempts to change the appearance of his animal friends.</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>Chameleon Sigh</p>	<p>Surroundings Recognize Trembling</p>
Words that cannot be determined in context		<p>Popular</p>