

TEXT COMPLEXITY: QUALITATIVE MEASURES RUBRIC

Literary

Text title: _____

Text author: _____

Final rating: _____

Text Structure	COMPLEX	MODERATELY COMPLEX	SLIGHTLY COMPLEX	SLIGHTLY
Narration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Complex and/or unconventional. ○ Many shifts in point of view and/or perspective. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Some complexities and/or unconventionality. ○ Occasional shifts in point of view and/or perspective. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Largely simple and/or conventional. ○ Few, if any, shifts in point of view and/or perspective. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Simple and conventional. ○ No shifts in point of view or perspective.
Order of Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Complex and/or unconventional. ○ Many shifts in point of view and/or perspective. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Several major shifts in time. ○ Use of flashback. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ No major shifts in time. ○ Occasional use of flashback. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Strictly chronological. ○ No use of flashback.
Use of Graphics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ If used, minimal illustrations that support the text. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ If used, a few illustrations support the text. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ If used, a range of illustrations or graphics support selected parts of the text. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ If used, extensive illustrations that directly support and assist in interpreting the written text.
Language Features	COMPLEX	MODERATELY COMPLEX	SLIGHTLY COMPLEX	SLIGHTLY
Conventionality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Dense and complex. ○ Contains abstract, ironic and/or figurative language. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Complex ○ Contains some abstract, ironic and/or figurative language. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Largely explicit and easy to understand. ○ Some occasions for more complex meaning. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Explicit, literal, straightforward, easy to understand.
Vocabulary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Generally unfamiliar, archaic, subject-specific or overly academic language. ○ May be ambiguous or purposefully misleading. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Some use of unfamiliar, archaic, subject-specific or overly academic language. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mostly contemporary, familiar, conversational language. ○ Rarely unfamiliar or overly academic language. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Contemporary, familiar, conversational language.
Sentence Structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mainly complex sentences often containing multiple concepts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Many complex sentences with several subordinate phrases or clauses and transition words. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Simple and compound sentences, with some more complex constructions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mainly simple sentences.
Meaning	COMPLEX	MODERATELY COMPLEX	SLIGHTLY COMPLEX	SLIGHTLY
Meaning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Several levels/layers and competing elements of meaning that are difficult to identify, separate and interpret. ○ Theme is implicit or subtle, often ambiguous and revealed over the entirety of the text. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Several levels/layers of meaning that may be difficult to identify or separate ○ Theme is implicit or subtle and may be revealed over the entirety of the text. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ More than one level/layer of meaning with levels clearly distinguished from each other ○ Theme is clear but may be conveyed with some subtlety. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ One level of meaning. ○ Theme is obvious and revealed early in the text.
Knowledge Demands	COMPLEX	MODERATELY COMPLEX	SLIGHTLY COMPLEX	SLIGHTLY
Life Experiences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Explores complex and sophisticated themes. ○ Experiences portrayed are distinctly different from the common reader. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Explores themes of varying levels of complexity. ○ Experiences portrayed are uncommon to most readers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Explores few themes. ○ Experiences portrayed are common to many readers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Explores a single theme. ○ Experiences portrayed are every day and common to most readers.
Intertextuality and Cultural Knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Many references or allusions to other texts or cultural elements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Some references or allusions to other texts or cultural elements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Few references or allusions to other texts or cultural elements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ No references or allusions to other texts or cultural elements.
Subject Matter Knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Requires extensive, perhaps specialized, prior content knowledge. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Requires moderate amount of prior content knowledge. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Requires some prior content knowledge. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Requires only everyday content knowledge.

Adapted from Appendix A: Research Supporting Key Elements of the Standards, Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts and Literacy in History/Social Studies and Science and Technical Subjects (2010).

Nov. 8, 2022