



TEXT COMPLEXITY: QUALITATIVE MEASURES RUBRIC

Literary Texts



LAYERS OF MEANING

| High | Middle High | Middle Low | Low |
|---|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Meaning: multiple layers of interpretation exist and most lean toward complex, abstract meaning | <input type="checkbox"/> Meaning: three or more layers of interpretation exist and include some complex and abstract meaning | <input type="checkbox"/> Meaning: at least two layers of interpretation exist largely made up of simple, concrete meaning | <input type="checkbox"/> Meaning: a single interpretation of simple, concrete meaning predominates |

STRUCTURE

| High | Middle High | Middle Low | Low |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Narrative Structure: complex, implicit, and unconventional <input type="checkbox"/> Narration: many shifts in point of view and/or perspective <input type="checkbox"/> Order of Events: not in chronological order <input type="checkbox"/> Use of Graphics: sophisticated graphics, essential to understanding the text, may also provide information not otherwise conveyed in the text | <input type="checkbox"/> Narrative Structure: some complexities, more implicit than explicit, some unconventionality <input type="checkbox"/> Narration: occasional shifts in point of view and/or perspective <input type="checkbox"/> Order of Events: several major shifts in time, use of flashback <input type="checkbox"/> Use of Graphics: some sophisticated graphics, may occasionally be essential to understanding the text | <input type="checkbox"/> Narrative Structure: largely simple structure, more explicit than implicit, largely conventional, <input type="checkbox"/> Narration: few, if any, shifts in point of view and/or perspective <input type="checkbox"/> Order of Events: occasional use of flashback, no major shifts in time <input type="checkbox"/> Use of Graphics: largely simple graphics, supplementary to understanding of the text | <input type="checkbox"/> Narrative Structure: simple, explicit, conventional <input type="checkbox"/> Narration: no shifts in point of view or perspective <input type="checkbox"/> Order of Events: chronological <input type="checkbox"/> Use of Graphics: use of simple graphics, unnecessary to understand the text |

LANGUAGE CONVENTIONALITY AND CLARITY

| High | Middle High | Middle Low | Low |
|---|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Meaning: implicit or inferred meaning, heavy use of figurative or ironic language, may be purposefully ambiguous or misleading at times <input type="checkbox"/> Register: generally unfamiliar, archaic, domain-specific, or overly academic | <input type="checkbox"/> Meaning: some implicit or inferred meaning, use of figurative or ironic language <input type="checkbox"/> Register: occasionally unfamiliar, archaic, domain-specific, or overly academic | <input type="checkbox"/> Meaning: largely explicit and literal meaning, subtle use of figurative or ironic language <input type="checkbox"/> Register: largely contemporary, familiar, conversational, rarely unfamiliar, archaic, domain-specific, or overly academic | <input type="checkbox"/> Meaning: explicit and literal meaning, little or no use of figurative or ironic language <input type="checkbox"/> Register: contemporary, familiar, conversational |

KNOWLEDGE DEMANDS

| High | Middle High | Middle Low | Low |
|---|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Life Experiences: explores complex, sophisticated, multiple themes; experiences portrayed are not fantasy but are distinctly different from the common reader <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural/Literary Knowledge: many references/allusions to other texts (intertextuality) and cultural elements <input type="checkbox"/> Subject Matter Knowledge: requires extensive, perhaps specialized content knowledge | <input type="checkbox"/> Life Experiences: explores multiple themes of varying levels of complexity; experiences portrayed are not fantasy but are uncommon to most readers <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural/Literary Knowledge: some references/allusions to other texts (intertextuality) and cultural elements | <input type="checkbox"/> Subject Matter Knowledge: requires moderate levels of content knowledge <input type="checkbox"/> Life Experiences: explores a single complex theme; experiences portrayed are common to many readers or are clearly fantasy | <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural/Literary Knowledge: few references/allusions to other texts (intertextuality) and cultural elements <input type="checkbox"/> Subject Matter Knowledge: requires some content knowledge <input type="checkbox"/> Life Experiences: explores a single theme; experiences portrayed are everyday and common or are clearly fantasy |

- **Cultural/Literary Knowledge:** no references/allusions to other texts (intertextuality) and cultural elements
- **Subject Matter Knowledge:** requires only everyday content knowledge