

Text-Based Comprehension



Text Complexity Measures

Use the rubric to familiarize yourself with the text complexity of *Happy Birthday Mr. Kang*.

Bridge to Complex Knowledge

Quantitative Measures	Lexile	710L
	Average Sentence Length	11.01
	Word Frequency	3.46

Qualitative Measures	Levels of Meaning	understand the realism of the characters and events in the fictional story; use of symbolism
	Structure	a mixture of poetry and narrative prose
	Language Conventinality and Clarity	non-English words, symbolism, poetry
	Theme and Knowledge Demands	references to other cultural experiences in both Chinese culture and New York City; basic understanding of the location of China

Reader and Task Suggestions	FORMATIVE ASSESSMENT Based on assessment results, use the Reader and Task Suggestions in Access Main Selection to scaffold the selection or support independence for students as they read <i>Happy Birthday Mr. Kang</i> .	
	READER AND TASK SUGGESTIONS	
	Preparing to Read the Text	Leveled Tasks
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review the strategy of using antonyms as context clues. Discuss how the author includes the main character's poems as part of the story. Remind students that the story includes a combination of poetry and prose. They may need to read more slowly to better understand the text. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Levels of Meaning • Analysis If students do not understand Mr. Kang's motivation in freeing his hua mei, have them read the last three paragraphs on p. 413 and tell how Mr. Kang compares himself to the bird. Theme and Knowledge Demands Students may have difficulty relating to Mr. Kang's lifestyle and culture. Remind them to pay attention to the photographs of the neighborhood where he lives and the simple images in his poems.

Recommended Placement Generally the qualitative and quantitative measures suggest this text should be placed in the Grade 2–3 text complexity band, which is where both the Common Core State Standards and *Scott Foresman Reading Street* have placed it. Encourage students to stretch to access some of the unfamiliar words using context clues and the images on the page.