

Text-Based Comprehension



Text Complexity Measures

Use the rubric to familiarize yourself with the text complexity of *Island of the Blue Dolphins*.

Bridge to Complex Knowledge

Quantitative Measures	Lexile	1020L
	Average Sentence Length	18.31
	Word Frequency	3.77

Qualitative Measures	Levels of Meaning	understand the elements of a novel; explicit objectives given for reading; only one level of meaning
	Structure	two paragraphs of introduction
	Language Conventinality and Clarity	clear, literal language
	Theme and Knowledge Demands	story told from a singular perspective; experiences are very different from those of the reader

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>Island of the Blue Dolphins</i> .	
	READER AND TASK SUGGESTIONS	
	Preparing to Read the Text	Leveled Tasks
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review the use of a dictionary or thesaurus for determining the meanings of unknown words. Discuss how details, such as sights and sounds, can be used to create a story's setting. Remind students that as they encounter unfamiliar words, they may need to read more slowly to determine word meaning in the sentence. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Theme and Knowledge Demands Students may have difficulty relating to Karana's experiences. As they read, have students think of more familiar stories that parallel Karana's struggles. Levels of Meaning • Analysis Students may already understand the importance of setting. Have them look for sensory details and then explain how they add to the reading experience.

Recommended Placement Some of the quantitative measures suggest this text may be outside the Grade 4–5 text complexity band. With scaffolded support during the reading of longer sentences in the selection, students should be able to better access the content. Some students may need additional support to grasp the unfamiliar situations presented in the selection.