



TEXT COMPLEXITY: QUALITATIVE MEASURES RUBRIC  
LITERARY TEXTS

DRAFT



LEVELS OF MEANING

High	Middle High	Middle Low	Low
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Multiple Levels of Complex Meaning</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Multiple Levels of Meaning</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Single Level of Complex Meaning</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Single Level of Simple Meaning</b></li> </ul>

STRUCTURE

High	Middle High	Middle Low	Low
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Narrative Structure:</b> complex, implicit, and unconventional</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Narration:</b> many shifts in point of view</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Order of Events:</b> not in chronological order</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Use of Graphics:</b> sophisticated graphics, essential to understanding the text, may also provide information not otherwise conveyed in the text</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Narrative Structure:</b> some complexities, more implicit than explicit, some unconventionality</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Narration:</b> occasional shifts in point of view</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Order of Events:</b> several major shifts in time, use of flashback</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Use of Graphics:</b> some sophisticated graphics, may occasionally be essential to understanding the text</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Narrative Structure:</b> largely simple structure, more explicit than implicit, largely conventional,</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Narration:</b> few, if any, shifts in point of view</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Order of Events:</b> occasional use of flashback, no major shifts in time</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Use of Graphics:</b> largely simple graphics, supplementary to understanding of the text</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Narrative Structure:</b> simple, explicit, conventional, no shifts in point of view</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Narration:</b> no shifts in point of view</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Order of Events:</b> chronological</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Use of Graphics:</b> use of simple graphics, unnecessary to understand the text</li> </ul>

LANGUAGE CONVENTIONALITY AND CLARITY

High	Middle High	Middle Low	Low
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Meaning:</b> implicit or inferred meaning, heavy use of figurative or ironic language, may be purposefully ambiguous or misleading at times</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Register:</b> generally unfamiliar, archaic, domain-specific, or overly academic</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Meaning:</b> some implicit or inferred meaning, use of figurative or ironic language</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Register:</b> occasionally unfamiliar, archaic, domain-specific, or overly academic</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Meaning:</b> largely explicit and literal meaning, subtle use of figurative or ironic language</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Register:</b> largely contemporary, familiar, conversational, rarely unfamiliar, archaic, domain-specific, or overly academic</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Meaning:</b> explicit and literal meaning, little or no use of figurative or ironic language</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Register:</b> contemporary, familiar, conversational</li> </ul>

KNOWLEDGE DEMANDS

High	Middle High	Middle Low	Low
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Life Experiences:</b> explores complex, sophisticated, multiple themes; experiences portrayed are not fantasy but are distinctly different from the common reader</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Cultural/Literary Knowledge:</b> many references/allusions to other texts (intertextuality) and cultural elements</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Subject Matter Knowledge:</b> requires extensive, perhaps specialized content knowledge</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Life Experiences:</b> explores multiple themes of varying levels of complexity; experiences portrayed are not fantasy but are uncommon to most readers</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Cultural/Literary Knowledge:</b> some references/allusions to other texts (intertextuality) and cultural elements</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Subject Matter Knowledge:</b> requires moderate levels of content knowledge</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Life Experiences:</b> explores a single complex theme; experiences portrayed are common to many readers or are clearly fantasy</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Cultural/Literary Knowledge:</b> few references/allusions to other texts (intertextuality) and cultural elements</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Subject Matter Knowledge:</b> requires some content knowledge</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Life Experiences:</b> explores a single theme; experiences portrayed are everyday and common or are clearly fantasy</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Cultural/Literary Knowledge:</b> no references/allusions to other texts (intertextuality) and cultural elements</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Subject Matter Knowledge:</b> requires only everyday content knowledge</li> </ul>