

Text-Based Comprehension



Text Complexity Measures

Use the rubric to familiarize yourself with the text complexity of *On the Banks of Plum Creek*.

Bridge to Complex Knowledge

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| Quantitative Measures | Lexile | 720L |
| | Average Sentence Length | 10.73 |
| | Word Frequency | 3.69 |

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| Qualitative Measures | Levels of Meaning | understand Laura’s actions and motivations on the prairie; figurative language: onomatopoeia, simile; only one level of meaning |
| | Structure | explicit; conventional structure; dialogue |
| | Language Conventionality and Clarity | some antiquated language; conventional language |
| | Theme and Knowledge Demands | a basic knowledge of life on the prairie in the 1800s; experiences that are very different from one’s own; simple theme; singular perspective |

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| 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>On the Banks of Plum Creek</i> . | |
| | READER AND TASK SUGGESTIONS | |
| | Preparing to Read the Text | Leveled Tasks |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss strategies for understanding multiple-meaning words. • Revisit the features of historical fiction text. • Prompt students to adjust their reading rate when they encounter challenging language in the selection. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Levels of Meaning •Analysis If students find the figurative language in the selection challenging, have them reread pp. 86-87 to find examples of onomatopoeia and simile. Have students explain why the author uses figurative language. • Theme and Knowledge Demands Some students may have prior knowledge of prairie life. Before reading the selection, have these students share what they already know about life on the prairie. |

Recommended Placement One of the qualitative measures suggests this text falls slightly below the Grade 4–5 text complexity band. The more complex qualitative requirements of the selection such as the unfamiliar setting and some antiquated language makes this selection appropriately placed for this level.