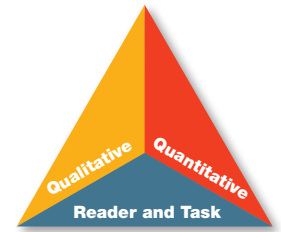# Text-Based Comprehension

Zoom in on ©

Text Complexity Measures

Use the rubric to familiarize yourself with the text complexity of *The Skunk Ladder.*

Qualitative / Quantitative / Reader and Task

Bridge to Complex Knowledge

Quantitative Measures		
	Lexile	1040
	Average Sentence Length	14.18
	Word Frequency	3.34

Qualitative Measures		
	Levels of Meaning	understand humorous fiction; one level of meaning
	Structure	conventional structure; events happen chronologically
	Language Conventionality and Clarity	humor; dialects; natural, conversational language
	Theme and Knowledge Demands	a basic knowledge of the danger due to skunks

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 *The Skunk Ladder.*

READER AND TASK SUGGESTIONS	
Preparing to Read the Text	**Leveled Tasks**
• With the information on p. 172e, review strategies for using Greek and Latin roots to find the meanings of unknown words. • Explain that a narrator in realistic fiction can tell the story in a serious tone or a more humorous tone. • Remind students that as they encounter unknown words they should slow down and think about the context of each word.	• **Language Conventionality and Clarity** If students will have difficulty with unfamiliar words, have them search for context clues and pictures that may aid their comprehension. • **Levels of Meaning • Synthesis** Students may easily recognize the story's humorous tone. As they read, have students think about how the selection would be different if it were written in a serious tone.

Recommended Placement Two of the quantitative measures suggest this text might be placed outside the Grade 4–5 text complexity band. Provide scaffolded support for students as they develop strategies to access some of the longer sentences. The conversational language used in the text should help most students to be able to understand the action and humor in the story.