Qualitative Dimension of Text Complexity

Qualitative Dimensions	Low-Level Text Complexity	High-Level Text Complexity
Level of Meaning (Literary) **or Purpose** (Informational)	• Single meaning • Explicitly stated	• Multiple levels of meaning • Implied purpose
Structure	• Simple • Explicit • Conventional • Events related in chronological order • Traits of a common genre or subgenre • Simple graphics • Graphic unnecessary or merely supplementary to understanding of text	• Complex • Implied • Unconventional • Events out of chronological order • Trait of a discipline rather than genre or subgenre • Sophisticated Graphics • Graphics essential to understanding text and provides additional information.
Language Conventionality and Clarity	• Literal • Clear • Contemporary, familiar • Conversational	• Figurative or ironic • Ambiguous or purposefully misleading • Archaic or unfamiliar • General academic and domain-specific
Knowledge Demands: Life Experiences (literary text)	• Simple theme • Single theme • Common, everyday experiences; clearly fantastical situations • Single perspective • Perspective like one's own	• Complex or sophisticated theme • Multiple themes • Experiences distinctly different from one's own • Multiple Perspectives • Perspectives unlike or in opposition to one's own
Knowledge Demands: Cultural/ Literary Knowledge (chiefly literary texts)	• Everyday knowledge and familiarity with genre conventions required • Low intertextuality	• Cultural and literary knowledge useful • High intertextuality (many references/allusions to other texts)
Knowledge Demands: Content/ Discipline Knowledge (chiefly informational texts)	• Everyday knowledge and familiarity with genre conventions required • Low intertextuality (few if any references to/citations of other texts)	• Extensive, specialized discipline-specific content knowledge required • High intertextuality (many references to /citations of other texts.