



Figure 2.1

Is This Text Complex?

Title of text: _____

Author: _____

Quantitative Text Features

Lexile level for books (www.scholastic.com/bookwizard):

Qualitative Text Features

Criteria				Comments
	Very Complex 3	Somewhat Complex 2	Not Complex 1	
Knowledge demands				
Connection to a student's life experiences, culture, literary or subject area knowledge vs. no connections				
Few allusions to other texts vs. many allusions (intertextuality)				
Meaning				
Single theme vs. multiple themes				
Simple theme vs. complex theme				
Perspective similar to one's own vs. unlike/opposite perspective				
Single perspective vs. multiple perspectives				
Mostly literal-level thinking required vs. many inferences				

Criteria	Complexity			Comments
	Very Complex 3	Somewhat Complex 2	Not Complex 1	
Language				
Straightforward language vs. sophisticated language (imagery, figurative language, etc.)				
Mostly familiar words vs. many new/unknown words				
Short, simple sentences vs. long, complicated sentences				
Text structure				
Simple sequential structure vs. complex nonlinear structure				
Supporting illustrations, subheadings, and so on vs. no helpful graphics or text features				

Task Features and Context

Students will demonstrate their understanding of this text by:

These students probably do/do not have the necessary background knowledge for this text.

Rating

As an overall assessment for these students, I would rate this text:

___ very complex

___ somewhat complex

___ not complex

because: