

# **The Complexity of Text Complexity**

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# Stand Up, Hand Up, Pair Up

As you enter, complete the sentence starter below in the “Current Understanding” section of your graphic organizer:

A text is complex when...

# Reflective Rainbow



# Outcomes

Participants will...

- gain a deeper understanding of text complexity and the pyramid that defines it
- experience hands-on application of the measures of text complexity to transfer to your classrooms

# Agenda

- What makes a text accessible? Challenging?
- The Case for Struggle: Text-Based Discussion in Cooperative Groups
- The Pyramid of Text Complexity: Quantitative Measures, Qualitative Measures, Reader and Task
- Fold the Line Check-in: My Thinking About Text Complexity
- Applying Thinking About Text Complexity to Text Selection

# Accessible/Challenging

- In trios, read your assigned text.
- Discuss what makes the text accessible and challenging, and why.
- Record your thinking on your T-chart.
- Be prepared to share your thinking with the group.

# Reflective Rainbow #2



# Read “The Case for Struggle”

- **Purpose for Reading:** Identify criteria that make a text-based lesson rigorous
- Silently and independently **read and mark up the text**, keeping the purpose for reading in mind.



# Question “The Case for Struggle”

Use the following question stems to write and answer three text-dependent questions:

- What is \_\_\_\_\_?
- What reasons do the authors give for \_\_\_\_\_?
- Do you agree with the authors’ claim that \_\_\_\_\_? Explain why or why not, using textual evidence.

# Discuss “The Case for Struggle”

- Identify your question that best ties back to the purpose for reading: identify criteria that make a text-based lesson rigorous
- Share your question with your group (just the question, not your answer!), asking group members to respond, including citing textual evidence

# Reflective Rainbow #3



# Brain Break: Act It Out

*Faithful Elephants:*

*A True Story of Animals, People, and War*

by Yukio Tsuchiya

Every time an action verb comes up, act it out.

# The Pyramid of Text Complexity



# Human Pyramid of Text Complexity

- # off by threes
- Read your component of the CCSS Text Complexity pyramid
- Collect 1st person descriptors of your component
- Be prepared to report out in 1st person

# Reflective Rainbow #4



# The Pyramid in Action

- Return to the group and text you worked with during the “Accessible/Challenging” activity
- Complete the CCSSO Roadmap Template for your text, using all of the following:
  - Qualitative Measures Rubric(s)
  - Quantitative Measures data
  - Reader and Task considerations
  - Completed Accessible/Challenging T-chart



# Reflective Rainbow #5



# Fold the Line

- Look at your revised definition
- How much has your thinking changed?
- Line up from  
    “I’ve done a 180!” to “I haven’t moved.”
- Fold
- Share your definition

# Closing

- Questions?
- Resources
- Survey