The Complexity of Text Complexity

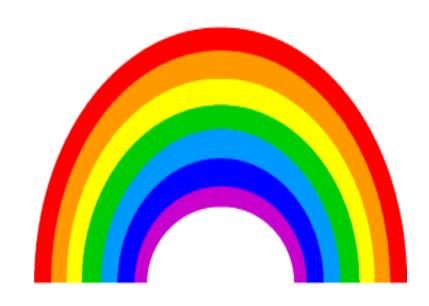
Bridgett Bird and Vivian Masket

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...



Outcomes

Participants will...

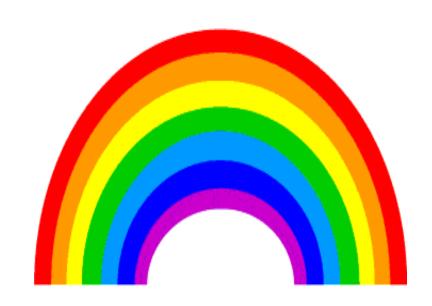
- gain a deeper understanding of text complexity and the pyramid that defines it
- experience hands-on application of the measures of text complexity to transfer to your classrooms

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.



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.

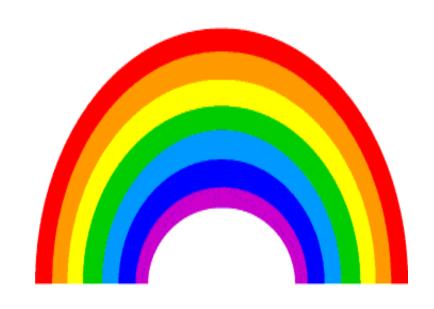
Question "The Case for Struggle"

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



Brain Break: Act It Out

Faithful Elephants:

A True Story of Animals, People, and War

by Yukio Tsuchiya

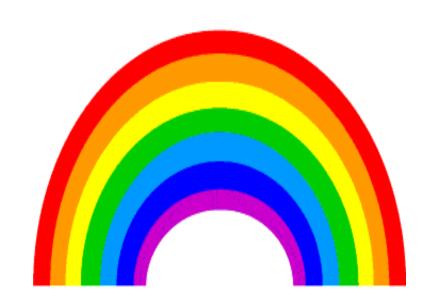
Every time an action verb comes up, act it out.

The Pyramid of Text Complexity



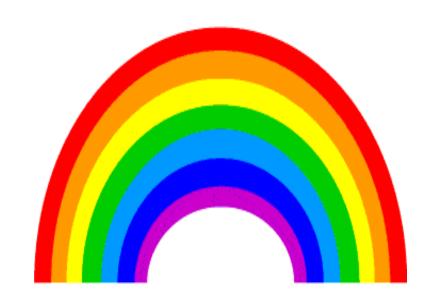
Human Pyramid of Text Complexity

- # 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



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



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