Text Complexity: Qualitative Measures Rubric

LITERARY TEXTS

Text Title_____   Text Author_____

	Exceedingly Complex	Very Complex	Moderately Complex	Slightly Complex
MEANING	○ **Meaning:** Several levels and competing elements of meaning that are difficult to identify, separate, and interpret; theme is implicit or subtle, often ambiguous and revealed over the entirety of the text	○ **Meaning:** Several levels of meaning that may be difficult to identify or separate; theme is implicit or subtle and may be revealed over the entirety of the text	○ **Meaning:** More than one level of meaning with levels clearly distinguished from each other; theme is clear but may be conveyed with some subtlety	○ **Meaning:** One level of meaning; theme is obvious and revealed early in the text.
TEXT STRUCTURE	○ **Organization:** Organization is intricate with regard to elements such as narrative viewpoint, time shifts, multiple characters, storylines and detail ○ **Use of Graphics:** If used, minimal illustrations that support the text	○ **Organization:** Organization may include subplots, time shifts and more complex characters ○ **Use of Graphics:** If used, a few illustrations that support the text	○ **Organization:** Organization may have two or more storylines and occasionally difficult to predict ○ **Use of Graphics:** If used, a range of illustrations that support selected parts of the text	○ **Organization:** Organization of text is clear, chronological or easy to predict ○ **Use of Graphics:** If used, extensive illustrations that directly support and assist in interpreting the written text
LANGUAGE FEATURES	○ **Conventionality**: Dense and complex; contains abstract, ironic, and/or figurative language ○ **Vocabulary:** Generally unfamiliar, archaic, subject-specific, or overly academic language; may be ambiguous or purposefully misleading ○ **Sentence Structure:** Mainly complex sentences often containing multiple concepts	○ **Conventionality**: Complex; contains some abstract, ironic, and/or figurative language ○ **Vocabulary:** Somewhat complex language that is sometimes unfamiliar, archaic, subject-specific, or overly academic ○ **Sentence Structure:** Many complex sentences with several subordinate phrases or clauses and transition words	○ **Conventionality**: Largely explicit and easy to understand with some occasions for more complex meaning ○ **Vocabulary:** Mostly contemporary, familiar, conversational; rarely unfamiliar or overly academic ○ **Sentence Structure:** Simple and compound sentences, with some more complex constructions	○ **Conventionality**: Explicit, literal, straightforward, easy to understand ○ **Vocabulary:** Contemporary, familiar, conversational language ○ **Sentence Structure:** Mainly simple sentences
KNOWLEDGE DEMANDS	○ **Life Experiences:** Explores complex, sophisticated themes; experiences are distinctly different from the common reader ○ **Intertextuality and Cultural Knowledge:** Many references or allusions to other texts or cultural elements	○ **Life Experiences:** Explores themes of varying levels of complexity; experiences portrayed are uncommon to most readers ○ **Intertextuality and Cultural Knowledge:** Some references or allusions to other texts or cultural elements	○ **Life Experiences:** Explores a single theme; experiences portrayed are common to many readers ○ **Intertextuality and Cultural Knowledge:** A few references or allusions to other texts or cultural elements	○ **Life Experiences:** Explores a single theme; experiences portrayed are everyday and common to most readers ○ **Intertextuality and Cultural Knowledge:** No references or allusions to other texts or cultural elements