**Qualitative Dimension of Text Complexity**

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| **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. |