Supporting Students in Complex Texts

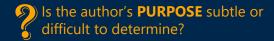
CRITICAL QUESTIONS and INSTRUCTIONAL SCAFFOLDS for teacher consideration.

Why are students reading this text?

- Learn or explore a concept.
- Analyze or evaluate an argument.

- Engage in the imagined world of the author.
- Understand/explore humanity.

INFORMATIONAL





https://www.teachingchannel.org/videos/middle-school-ela-unit-persuasion • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •

Does the **STRUCTURE** of the text make it difficult to determine the main idea(s)?



Is the LANGUAGE dense, unfamiliar, and content-specific?



Is the text difficult to understand because of complex **SENTENCE STRUCTURE?**

.......



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https://vimeo.com/47315992

Does understanding the text require significant **BACKGROUND** KNOWLEDGE?

Use a word sort to access background knowledge and create connections to text.

https://www.teachingchannel.org/videos/teaching-slavery

VIDEO EXAMPLE LINK

Are there several layers and levels of **MEANING**?

NARRATIVE

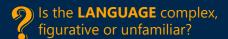
Is the **STRUCTURE** of the text intricate, with shifting points of view and multiple storylines?



Use "interrupted passages" to focus students on one layer at a time.

VIDEO EXAMPLE (START @ 1:40)

https://www.teachingchannel.org/videos/analyzing-author-choices-nea • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •





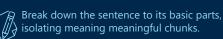
Use the "sift" method to tease out symbolic and figurative meanings.

VIDEO EXAMPLE LINK

https://www.teachingchannel.org/videos/sift-method-analyze-literature

.......

Is the SENTENCE STRUCTURE complex, often containing multiple thoughts or concepts?



(EXPLANATION BEGINS ON PAGE 22)

https://www.cgcs.org/cms/lib/DC00001581/Centricity/Domain/25/ELA_retreat-Wong%20Fillmorepart2.pdf

Does the text assume the reader's **EXPERIENCE AND CULTURAL/HISTORICAL KNOWLEDGE** of the topic?



Preview the text, exploring social, cultural and historical contexts.

VIDEO EXAMPLE LINK

https://www.teachingchannel.org/videos/preview-challenging-topics



Where is the **BALANCE** between text complexity and task?



Layer less complex texts to support more complex texts.

VIDEO EXPLANATION https://www.teachingchannel.org/videos/simplifying-text-complexity

Weave context, texture and fulcrum texts in a unit of study. MORE INFORMATION HERE

 ${\it http://www.ncte.org/library/NCTEFiles/Resources/Books/Supp_Students_9_12/49447_20-40.pdf}$





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