Text Complexity Analysis of *The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins

Qualitative Measures

Levels of Meaning:
The novel has a multiple levels of meaning. Literally, the story centers around Katniss, who lives in the not-too-distant future in the remains of what was once North America. As her home district's representative to the annual Hunger games, she competes for survival. The book is also a social commentary on reality television and social issues.

Structure:
A simple structure told by a first person narrator with foreshadowing and flashback, the book does require the reader to picture a future world with event and customs that may be unfamiliar.

Language Conventionality and Clarity:
Vivid description, figurative language and imagery is used to help the reader picture this world in the not-too-distant future. The voice of the narrator is conversational, familiar, and contemporary.

Knowledge Demands:
Higher level themes of moral dilemma, social criticism, government control, war and hunger. Events of the novel are unique to Katniss's world of the future and require a deeper level of thinking on the part of the reader.
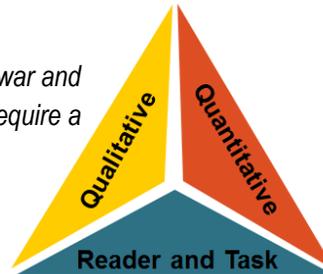
Quantitative Measures

Various readability measures of The Hunger Games are largely in agreement that is of appropriate complexity for grades 7-adult.. The ATOS formula (used with the Accelerated Reader program) identifies this title as having a book level of 5.3 . A Lexile measure for this novel is 810L .

Reader-Task Considerations

These are to be determined locally with reference to such variables as a student's motivation, knowledge, and experiences as well as purpose and the complexity of the task assigned and the question posed.

Here in Kansas, educators might want to examine the following elements or issues: the consequences of hunger, people's Constitutional rights, and links to other books such as 1984, The Giver, Fahrenheit 451*, and others for student learning differentiation purposes.*

Recommended Placement

The Hunger Games *is the 2010 Heartland Award winner in Kansas. Both the qualitative and quantitative measures support the novel's placement in the grades 7 and higher text complexity band. This book also ties into social studies and some science standards.*