FRAMEWORK FOR ESTIMATING TEXT DIFFICULTY

Title and source: _____

Author: _____   **Curriculum level and area:** _____

Factors affecting text difficulty	Reading year level	Notes
Age appropriateness Consider: • age of the main character(s) • prior knowledge assumed by the text • maturity required to deal with the themes • familiarity of contexts, settings, and subject matter • likely interests and experiences of readers.		
Complexity of ideas Consider: • implied information or ideas (requiring readers to infer) • irony or ambiguity • abstract ideas • metaphors and other figurative or connotative language • technical information • support from illustrations, diagrams, graphs, and so on.		
Structure and coherence of the text Consider: • flashbacks or time shifts • narrative point of view • mixed text types • connections across the text • examples and explanations • competing information • length of paragraphs • unattributed dialogue • use of headings and subheadings.		
Syntactic structure of the text Consider: • sentence length • the balance of simple, compound, complex, or incomplete sentences • use of passive voice or nominalisation • repetition of words or phrases • changes in verb tense.		
Vocabulary difficulty Consider: • unfamiliar vocabulary • technical and academic terms, non-English words, and proper nouns • sentence-level and/or visual support • contextual clues • the use of a glossary or footnotes.		
Length of the text		

Estimated reading year level:	Notes: