APPENDIX H- GRADES 6-12 Gradients in Complexity: Literary Texts

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|  | Simple Texts | Somewhat Complex Texts | Complex Texts | Very Complex Texts |
| Layout | Consistent placement of text, regular word and line spacing, often large plain fontExtensive illustrations that directly support and help interpret the written textSupportive signposting and enhancements | May have longer passages of uninterrupted text, often plain fontA range of illustrations that support selected parts of the textReduced signposting and enhancements | Longer passages of uninterrupted text may include columns or other variations in layout, often smaller more elaborate fontA few illustrations that support the textMinimal signposting and/or enhancements | Very long passages of uninterrupted text that may include columns or other variations in layout, often small densely packed printMinimal illustrations that support the textIntegrated signposting conforming to literary devices. No enhancements |
| Purpose and Meaning | Purpose usually stated explicitly in the title or in the beginning of the textOne level of meaningTheme is obvious and revealed early in the text | Purpose tends to be revealed early in the text, but may be conveyed with some subtletyMore than one level of meaning, with levels clearly distinguished from each otherTheme is clear and revealed early in the text, but may be conveyed with some subtlety | Purpose is implicit and may be revealed over the entirety of the textSeveral levels of meaning that may be difficult to identify/separateTheme may be implicit or subtle, is sometimes ambiguous and may be revealed over the entirety of the text | Purpose implicit or subtle, is sometimes ambiguous and revealed over the entirety of the textSeveral levels and competing elements of meaning that are difficult to identify/separate and interpretTheme is implicit or subtle, is often ambiguous, and is revealed over the entirety of the text |
| Structure | The organization of the text is clear, chronological and/or easy to predictConnections among events or ideas are explicit and clear.One mode of communication is evident | The organization of the text may have additional characters, two or more storylines and is occasionally difficult to predictConnections among events or ideas are sometimes implicit or subtle.May include different modes of communication | The organization of the text may include, subplots, time shifts and more complex charactersConnections among events or ideas are often implicit or subtleIncludes smaller sections that utilize different modes of communication of varying complexity | The organization of the text is intricate with regard to elements such as narrative viewpoint, time shifts, multiple characters, storylines and detailConnections among events or ideas are implicit or subtle throughout the text.Includes sustained sections that utilize different modes of communication and/or hybrid or non-linear texts |
| Language Features | Mainly simple sentencesSimple, literal languageVocabulary is mostly familiar | Simple and compound sentences with some more complex constructionsMainly literal, common languageSome unfamiliar vocabulary | Many complex sentences with increased subordinate phrases and clausesSome figurative or literary languageIncludes much academic vocabulary and some domain specific (content) vocabulary | Many complex sentences, often containing intricate detail or conceptsMuch figurative or literary language such as metaphor, analogy, and connotative languageIncludes extensive academic and domain specific(content) vocabulary, and possibly archaic language |
|  | Little assumed personal experience or cultural knowledgeSimple ideas | Some assumed personal experience and/or cultural knowledgeBoth simple and more complicated ideas | Much assumed personal experience and/or cultural knowledgeA range of recognizable ideas and challenging concepts | Extensive, demanding, assumed personal experience and/or cultural knowledgeMany new ideas and/or complex, challenging concepts |

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Knowledge

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