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 font  Extensive illustrations that directly support and help interpret the written text  Supportive signposting and enhancements | May have longer passages of uninterrupted text, often plain font  A range of illustrations that support selected parts of the text  Reduced signposting and enhancements | Longer passages of uninterrupted text may include columns or other variations in layout, often smaller more elaborate font  A few illustrations that support the text  Minimal signposting and/or enhancements | Very long passages of uninterrupted text that may include columns or other variations in layout, often small densely packed print  Minimal illustrations that support the text  Integrated signposting conforming to literary devices. No enhancements |
| Purpose and Meaning | Purpose usually stated explicitly in the title or in the beginning of the text  One level of meaning  Theme is obvious and revealed early in the text | Purpose tends to be revealed early in the text, but may be conveyed with some subtlety  More than one level of meaning, with levels clearly distinguished from each other  Theme 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 text  Several levels of meaning that may be difficult to identify/separate  Theme 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 text  Several levels and competing elements of meaning that are difficult to identify/separate and interpret  Theme 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 predict  Connections 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 predict  Connections 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 characters  Connections among events or ideas are often implicit or subtle  Includes 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 detail  Connections 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 sentences  Simple, literal language  Vocabulary is mostly familiar | Simple and compound sentences with some more complex constructions  Mainly literal, common language  Some unfamiliar vocabulary | Many complex sentences with increased subordinate phrases and clauses  Some figurative or literary language  Includes much academic vocabulary and some domain specific (content) vocabulary | Many complex sentences, often containing intricate detail or concepts  Much figurative or literary language such as metaphor, analogy, and connotative language  Includes extensive academic and domain specific  (content) vocabulary, and possibly archaic language |
|  | Little assumed personal experience or cultural knowledge  Simple ideas | Some assumed personal experience and/or cultural knowledge  Both simple and more complicated ideas | Much assumed personal experience and/or cultural knowledge  A range of recognizable ideas and challenging concepts | Extensive, demanding, assumed personal experience and/or cultural knowledge  Many new ideas and/or complex, challenging concepts |

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Knowledge

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