

Table 1
Text Complexity Matrix

Feature	Lexile	Structure	Illustrations	Point of View	Vocabulary	Language	Theme	Knowledge Demands	Total
Description and Point Values	1. 0–199 2. 200–299 3. 300–399 4. 400–499 5. 500–599 6. 600–699 7. 700–799 8. 800–899	1. Single plot line 2. Multiple plot lines 3. Unconventional plot such as flashbacks	1. Very helpful for comprehension 2. Somewhat helpful 3. Minimally helpful	1. Third person 2. First person 3. Multiple points of view	1. Simple terms 2. Moderately complex vocabulary 3. Complex vocabulary	1. Literal, contemporary language 2. Less familiar language 3. Figurative or ambiguous language	1. Simple and literal 2. Metaphorical 3. Multiple levels of meaning	1. Life experiences similar to reader's own 2. Cultural background different from reader's own 3. Perspective different from reader's own	
Text									
<i>Leo the Late Bloomer</i> (Kraus, 1971)	120L 1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	9
<i>Peter's Chair</i> (Keats, 1967)	390L 3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	10
<i>The Recess Queen</i> (O'Neill, 2002)	450L 4	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	12
<i>It's Mine</i> (Lionni, 1985)	470L 4	1	1	1	2	2	2	1	14
<i>Honey... Honey... Lion!</i> (Brett, 2005)	710L 7	1	1	3	2	2	2	3	21
<i>The Lorax</i> (Dr. Seuss, 1971)	560L 5	3	1	3	3	3	3	3	24