

CCSS Text Complexity

	Degree of Text Complexity			Notes
Aspect of Text	Less Complex	↔	More Complex	
Levels of meaning (literary) or purpose (informational)	Single level of meaning; clear, explicitly stated purpose; straightforward	↔	Multiple, implicit, ambiguous	
Structure (organization/progression of text & use of graphics)	Organization: Simple, explicit, conventional Graphics: Simple or supplementary	↔	Organization: Complex, implicit, unconventional Graphics: Sophisticated or essential	
Language Conventionality & Clarity	Literal, clear, contemporary, conversational	↔	Figurative or ironic; ambiguous or misleading; archaic or unfamiliar; academic or domain-specific	
Knowledge demands: Life Experiences	Simple or single themes; common experiences or clearly fantastical; single or familiar perspectives	↔	Complex or multiple themes; unfamiliar experiences; multiple or unfamiliar perspectives	
Knowledge demands: Cultural/literary (literary)	Everyday knowledge and familiarity with genre conventions; low intertextuality	↔	Cultural and literary knowledge useful; high intertextuality	
Knowledge demands: Content/disciplinary (informational)	Everyday knowledge and familiarity with genre conventions; low intertextuality	↔	Extensive or specialized discipline-specific content knowledge required; high intertextuality	