TEXT COMPLEXITY ANALYSIS OF
Are Trees Alive?

by Debbie S. Miller

Text Type: Informational

TEXT DESCRIPTION	PLACEMENT
This richly illustrated book explains the function of each part of a tree by comparing it to a part of the human body. This book helps students explore the similarities between living things and make connections between themselves and trees.	When quantitative level, qualitative level and tasks are considered, this is an appropriately complex read-aloud for Kindergarteners.

QUANTITATIVE MEASURE

QUANTITATIVE MEASURE OF THE TEXT: 640L
ASSOCIATED BAND LEVEL: 2-3

QUALITATIVE MEASURES

MEANING/PURPOSE: Moderately Complex
The main idea of the text is abstract, but can be inferred from words and pictures that compare parts of the tree to parts of the human body.

TEXT STRUCTURE: Slightly Complex
The connections between the ideas presented are explicit, and examples are concrete and clearly demonstrate these connections. Illustrations support and assist readers in understanding the written text.

LANGUAGE FEATURES: Moderately Complex
Most vocabulary will be familiar to students, but the text uses some academic and domain specific words. Nearly every page contains a simile, but comparison are concrete and supported by illustrations.

KNOWLEDGE DEMANDS: Moderately Complex
The examples presented are simple and concrete, but the text relies on a basic understanding of how the human body functions.

CONSIDERATIONS FOR READER AND TASK

Students use movement to show understanding of the analogies the text makes between the parts of a tree and the parts of the human body, building a deeper understanding of how trees live and grow.

Specific supports for English Language Learners, students with special needs, and students who need enrichment are included in the module.

RATIONALE

Students continue to explore the questions: “Is a tree living? How do you know?” This text helps students develop understanding of different types of living things, and the common needs of all living things. In addition to deepening knowledge, this text is used to develop skills in reading informational texts and to develop vocabulary (RI.K.2, RI.K.4).

KM3.3 #9