TEXT COMPLEXITY ANALYSIS OF
Birds (Scholastic Discover More)

by Penelope Arlong

Text Type: Informational

TEXT DESCRIPTION	PLACEMENT
This book contains a wealth of information about birds, including their unique physical adaptations and their life cycle. The book is divided into narrowly focused sections with descriptive titles, making it easy to navigate. The information in each section is clearly presented using beautiful photographs and short captions. The text features a wide variety of birds from around the globe.	The structure and detailed visual elements of this text make it an excellent choice for beginning researchers. This text is read aloud for general context and guided research. When quantitative level, qualitative level and tasks are considered, this is an appropriately complex read- aloud for first graders.

QUANTITATIVE MEASURE

QUANTITATIVE MEASURE OF THE TEXT: 620L
ASSOCIATED BAND LEVEL: 2-3

QUALITATIVE MEASURES

MEANING/PURPOSE: Slightly Complex
The purpose of each section is easy to identify from its title and is explicitly stated at the beginning of the section. Each two- page section is clear and narrowly focused.

TEXT STRUCTURE: Moderately Complex
The book is divided into thirteen short, two page sections. The focus of each section is clearly identified by a title and 1-2 sentences, written in large print, in the upper left hand corner. The text also contains a table of contents, index and glossary. The connections between some ideas and examples must be inferred, but each section is tightly focused. Text features including text boxes, captions, and print characteristics clarify the organization of content and enhance the reader's understanding. Detailed photographs, graphics, and diagrams strongly support understanding of the text.

LANGUAGE FEATURES: Moderately Complex
The language is largely explicit and easy to understand. Vocabulary is mostly familiar, but the text includes many academic and domain specific words. The text is presented in short 1-2 sentence segments and primarily uses simple sentences, with some more complex constructions.

KNOWLEDGE DEMANDS: Moderately Complex
This text relies on both common knowledge and some discipline-specific content knowledge. Each section includes a mix of simple and more abstract ideas. Much of the context needed can be drawn from the detailed photos and diagrams.

CONSIDERATIONS FOR READER AND TASK

Although the text structure and visual aspects of this text are complex, once students learn to use these features, they strongly support comprehension. Tasks include explicit instruction in using text features and other visual elements to make meaning of text that might otherwise be difficult to understand.

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

RATIONALE

Birds (Scholastic Discover More) supports students in answering the question, "What makes a bird a bird?". This book helps students build background knowledge about birds through a cycle of reading, talking, and representing through scientific drawing, writing, role-play, music and movement. The text is used for research about the physical characteristics of birds as students listen to the text read aloud and use text features to develop their skills in reading informational text (RI.1.5, RI.1.2, RI.1.5, RI.1.7). A short section of the book is used to assess students' ability to use text features on the end of unit assessment.

1M3.1 #7