TEXT COMPLEXITY ANALYSIS OF
City Hawk: The Story of Pale Male

by Meghan McCarthy

Text Type: Literary

TEXT DESCRIPTION	PLACEMENT
Based on real events, this picture book tells the story of Pale Male, a red tailed Hawk who takes up residence in New York City. Together with his mate, Lola, Pale Male builds a nest atop a Fifth Avenue apartment building and hatches two eggs. Delighted birdwatchers enjoy this bit of wildlife in the city and the baby birds eventually learn to fly.	Despite its high quantitative measure, the literary style, familiar content and simple structure make this text appropriate for grade 1. Pictures strongly support the story line, conveying characters, events and setting clearly. 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: 880L
ASSOCIATED BAND LEVEL: 4-5

QUALITATIVE MEASURES

MEANING/PURPOSE: Moderately Complex
The book contains multiple levels of meaning, with messages about the beauty of wildlife and the value of persistence, that are fairly easy to infer.

TEXT STRUCTURE: Slightly Complex
The storyline Is clear, chronological, and easy to predict. The illustrations strongly support students in understanding characters, major events and the setting , but are not necessary to understanding the meaning of the text.

LANGUAGE FEATURES: Moderately Complex
The language is generally easy to understand but offers some occasions for more complex meaning. Some vocabulary may be unfamiliar. The sentence structure consists primarily of simple and compound sentences, with some complex constructions.

KNOWLEDGE DEMANDS: Slightly Complex
The experiences portrayed will be familiar to many readers. Some background knowledge of high rise apartments and urban areas is helpful, but most important information can be inferred from the illustrations.

CONSIDERATIONS FOR READER AND TASK

Due to high quantitative complexity, this story is read aloud with targeted instruction. The central message in the story is conveyed through the actions of multiple characters; students will need support in uncovering deeper meaning in the text. Some sentences are long and complex and will need analysis. Students from rural areas may benefit from additional information about the challenges living in a city may pose for wild birds.

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

RATIONALE

This story introduces students to the red tailed hawk, Pale Male, whose real-life story will become the focus of an opinion piece later in the module. Students will also read additional informational text that introduces another perspective on the hawk's city nest and compare the two texts (W.1.1, RI.1.9). In addition, City Hawk is an excellent vehicle for teaching CCSS RL.1.3 and SL.1.2 because the characters and major events in the story are heavily dependent on the setting.

1M4.2 #10