TEXT COMPLEXITY ANALYSIS OF
Stone Girl, Bone Girl: A Story of Mary Anning of Lyme Regis

by Laurence Anholt

Text Type: Literary (Nonfiction)

TEXT DESCRIPTION	PLACEMENT
This picture book tells the true story of Mary Anning, "the Fossil Girl of Lyme Regis" and her deep passion for seeking out "curiosities" in the cliffs near her home in Dorset. Exploring on the seacoast with her dog, twelve year old Mary discovered a giant fossilized "sea monster", an Ichthyosaurus, that proved to be one of the most important prehistoric finds of her time. This story is beautifully told, and detailed illustrations add rich layers of meaning to the text.	This book falls solidly in the 2-3 band. The chronological structure, straightforward storyline and detailed illustrations offer a solid foundation for deeper, more complex thinking about the main character.

QUANTITATIVE MEASURE

QUANTITATIVE MEASURE OF THE TEXT: 520L
ASSOCIATED BAND LEVEL: 2-3

QUALITATIVE MEASURES

MEANING/PURPOSE: Moderately Complex
The text contains a well-developed main character, multiple levels of meaning, and a central message that is fairly easy to infer.

TEXT STRUCTURE: Slightly Complex
The book is structured as a brief biography of Mary Anning from birth through age twelve. The storyline is clear, chronological and fairly easy to predict. While not essential to understanding the story, the illustrations are abstract and often extend the meaning of the text by clarifying what the main character is feeling or imagining.

LANGUAGE FEATURES: Moderately Complex
The text is generally easy to understand but contains some figurative language and rich descriptions. Some vocabulary may be unfamiliar. Sentence structure consists primarily of simple and compound sentences, with some complex constructions.

KNOWLEDGE DEMANDS: Moderately Complex
The story begins in a small village in England in 1799. Some historical or geographical elements of the story may be unfamiliar to students, but most necessary context is available through the words and illustrations.

CONSIDERATIONS FOR READER AND TASK

Through a close read aloud, students explore Mary Anning's responses to the challenges in her life and make inferences about her character. Concrete details and illustrations support students in understanding more abstract ideas.

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

RATIONALE

This rich and engaging narrative non-fiction text kicks off students' study of paleontologists and fossils as they learn about the main character, Mary Anning, her passion for discovering fossils, and her significance as a fossil hunter. Students focus on the overall structure of narratives through structured retells of the text (RL.2.2, RL.2.5) while building context about fossils and the work of fossil hunters. Throughout the close read aloud of *Stone Girl, Bone Girl,* students engage in questions and activities that help them understand how Mary Anning responds to challenges in her life, and the habits of character she uses to overcome these challenges (RL.2.1, RL2.3, RL.2.7).

2M2.1 #4