

## *Earthquake Terror* Text Complexity

QUALITATIVE MEASURES	QUANTITATIVE MEASURES
<p><b>Levels of Meaning</b> While the apparent aim of the text is to illustrate that nature is powerful enough to defeat man, the book also shows how family members work together and how determination can create unexpected heroes.</p> <p><b>Structure</b> Overall, the narrative uses a fairly simple, explicit, and conventional story structure. A slightly more complex structure near the end of the text calls on students to navigate two overlapping plot lines—what happens to Jonathan and Abby over a period of time, and what happens to Mom and Dad over the same time frame.</p> <p><b>Language Conventinality and Clarity</b> Peg Kehret uses language that is generally clear and accessible. She does, however, use the literary devices of personification and foreshadowing, making overall comprehension slightly more difficult.</p> <p><b>Knowledge Demands</b> While the central theme is fairly simple, there are also multiple secondary themes. General background knowledge about earthquakes and cause and effect relationships related to natural disasters is necessary.</p>	<p>The Lexile level for <i>Earthquake Terror</i> is 690 based on word frequency and sentence length. This is in the upper range of the complexity band for 2<sup>nd</sup>–3<sup>rd</sup> grade according to the Common Core State Standards.</p> <p><b>READER TASK CONSIDERATIONS</b></p> <p>These should be determined locally with reference to motivation, knowledge, and experiences as well as to the purpose and complexity of the tasks assigned and the questions posed.</p>