Kids at Work Text Complexity

QUALITATIVE MEASURES

Levels of Meaning

Multiple themes throughout the book increase the challenge for readers of this text. Themes include but are not limited to human rights, freedom vs. slavery, the value of freedom, the effects of advancement, and the role of government.

Structure

This informational text is told in sequential order, with a detailed focus on a ten-year span of Lewis Hine's life. What makes the structure of this text complex is Freedman's use of quotes from interviews Lewis Hine conducted during his investigation and from Lewis Hine's notes. In addition, the genre biography is a complex genre that requires background knowledge about the time period.

Language Conventionality and Clarity

Historical language and dialect add a greater depth to the language of this text. In addition, vocabulary used throughout the text is advanced vocabulary for fifth-grade students.

Knowledge Demands

While reading, students will need to rely on their understanding of the Industrial Revolution in America, slavery, child labor, and human rights.

QUANTITATIVE MEASURES

The Lexile level for *Kids at Work* is 1140, based on word frequency and sentence length. This is in the middle range of the complexity band for 6th-8th grade according to the Common Core State Standards.

READER TASK CONSIDERATIONS

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.