The City of Ember Text Complexity

QUALITATIVE MEASURES	QUANTITATIVE MEASURES
Levels of Meaning Multiple themes throughout the book increase the challenge for readers of this text. Themes include but are not limited to curiosity vs. apathy, survival, bravery, responsibility, and pacifism. These themes are conveyed through the development of the problem throughout the book.	The Lexile level for *The City of Ember* is 680, based on word frequency and sentence length. This is in the upper range of the complexity band for 2nd–3rd grade according to the Common Core State Standards.
Structure While this story is told in sequential order, there is a time gap of approximately 241 years. To understand the text, students must use clues in the story to infer what happened during those 241 years. This is what makes the structure of this text complex. In addition, the genre science fiction is a more complex genre than realistic fiction because it requires students to use background knowledge to evaluate the believability of the story.	**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.
Language Conventionality and Clarity Much of the complex vocabulary needed for understanding is inferred throughout the story. These inferred words are advanced vocabulary words for fifth-grade students.	
Knowledge Demands While reading, students will need to rely on their understanding of the threat of nuclear war, the arms race, the Cold War, and Albert Einstein. In addition, students will need to rely on their understanding of analogy.	