



Text Complexity Analysis of

Zanzibar's Malaria Hunter (*title*)

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Recommended Complexity Band: 9-10

Qualitative Measures

Meaning/Purpose: (*Briefly explain the levels of meaning (Literary Text) or purpose (Informational Text.)*) One purpose of the article (noted by the title) is to inform readers of the "Malaria Hunter" who travels to potential malaria patients to test and treat families. The article also works to show how educating and empowering families about malaria has decreased the incidence of malaria in Zanzibar from 25% to 1%.

Text Structure: (*Briefly describe the structure, organization, and other features of the text.*) The text uses cause/effect, problem/solution, and sequence structures. It explains how tracking, testing, treating,, and educating people exposed to or living close to malaria can have a major effect on the eradication of malaria. The subtitle and captions are helpful in reminding us just how deadly malaria can be and how it is rare for a woman in a Muslim country to be out riding a motorbike and working independently.

Language Features: (*Briefly describe the conventions and clarity of the language used in the text, including the complexity of the vocabulary and sentence structures.*) The article uses very few domain-specific words (e.g., *Anopheles mosquito, parasite, malaria, disease, infected*) and academic terms (e.g., *diagnostic, transmission, surveillance, outbreaks, data cloud, global gains, and mortality*). Some students may not understand the true meaning of conservative Muslim country. A number of sentences use complex sentence structures.

Knowledge Demands: (*Briefly describe the knowledge demands the text requires of students.*) Students will need to have some understanding of infectious diseases; especially malaria. For example, students should understand that only a certain species (and only the females) of mosquitoes infect humans with the parasite that causes malaria. The mosquito picks up the parasite from other infected humans. Some knowledge about testing of blood by the finger-pricking technique, mosquito nets, and how standing water helps mosquitoes to breed would be helpful as well.

Text Description

Briefly describe the text: The article is about a woman, Habiba who uses a motorbike to travel to families in the villages of Zanzibar to track, test, and treat malaria patients. After receiving a text message about the location of a malaria patient, she travels to the patient and tests the patient's family to see if other family members have malaria. Then, she treats any infected family members with medicine, giving them extra medicine and insecticide-treated mosquito nets, while educating them about prevention of the disease and its transmission.

Quantitative Measures

Complexity Band Level (provide range): 6-8; 9-10

The text falls into the above grade bands according to a quantitative reading measure. It falls in the upper range of the 6-8 and at the lower end of the 9-10 band.

Considerations for Reader and Task

Below are factors to consider with respect to the reader and task.

Potential Challenges this Text Poses:

It will be important for the teacher to discuss the parasite that causes malaria and how malaria is transmitted from person to mosquito to person. A graphic organizer would be helpful. It is also important to know that only a certain species of mosquitoes (*Anopheles*) and only females of those species transfer the parasite (*Plasmodium*) that causes malaria. It may be important to talk about the life stages of mosquitoes and how "standing water" aids in the speed of that process. Terms that may be important in understanding this article include but are not limited to: diagnostic equipment, surveillance, outbreaks, data cloud, and mortality.

Recommended Placement

Briefly explain the recommended placement of the text in a particular grade band: The quantitative measure puts this text in the 6-8 and 9-10 grade band. This article can be tied into a lesson focusing on biological concepts and standards addressed in a 9th/10th grade biology class such as mosquito life cycle, malaria-causing parasites, and transmission of infectious disease. With this in mind, placement in the 9-10 grade band is recommended