



Text Complexity Analysis of

Starving the Beast (*title*)

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Recommended Complexity Band: 11-12

Qualitative Measures

Meaning/Purpose: (*Briefly explain the levels of meaning (Literary Text) or purpose (Informational Text.)*) The purpose of the article is to inform the reader about the importance of a study that was conducted to find a way to disrupt the delivery of copper to cancer cells. The purpose of the article is implied in the subtitle and caption. The purpose is easy to identify based on the title, subtitle, and content of the article, especially in paragraphs two, three, and four.

Text Structure: (*Briefly describe the structure, organization, and other features of the text.*) The organization of the text is somewhat complex. The article begins with an outline of the current study. Then it connects back to the findings of previous studies and addresses the motivations for the current research. It wraps up with some steps for the future and stresses the importance of this kind of research. The text does contain headings to help the reader navigate the text.

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 author uses non-literal language to describe the movement and relationship between the cancer cells and transport cells (e.g., feeding cancer, traffic patterns, chaperones, trafficking, game-changers). There are numerous domain-specific words (e.g., molecules, cells, tumors, proteins). The author uses varied and complex sentence structures.

Knowledge Demands: (*Briefly describe the knowledge demands the text requires of students.*) The text requires a moderate level of content knowledge due to the amount of domain-specific language (e.g., protein cell, molecules, protein-delivery, organic molecules, anemia, immune system, hypothesis). The description of cancer and its reception of copper is abstract. The text also mentions many external studies and research.

Text Description

Briefly describe the text: This informational text supports reading in the content area. This text describes the findings of a scientific study to determine how cancer cell growth can be halted by reducing the amount of copper that is transported to the cell. The text also describes how the scientists used the scientific method to develop their experiment.

Quantitative Measures

Complexity Band Level (provide range): 11-12

The text falls in the midrange of the above grade band according to a quantitative reading measure.

Considerations for Reader and Task

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

Potential Challenges this Text Poses:

The students need to have an understanding of the difference between cancer cells and normal cells. They also need an understanding of the processes that allow cells to receive/transport nutrients.

It would be helpful for students to have an understanding of clinical trials and how they are used in medical research.

It would be helpful for students to have an understanding of chemistry and how atoms and molecules are the building blocks of all things.

Students need to understand the scientific method and how the sharing of ideas and openness between scientists allows research to advance.

Recommended Placement

Briefly explain the recommended placement of the text in a particular grade band: The recommended grade band for this text is 11-12. The quantitative measure falls in the 11-12 band, and many of the qualitative measures fall in the more complex end of the complexity continuum, particularly due to the complexity of the text structure, use of non-literal language, use of domain-specific vocabulary and content knowledge required, as well as several important considerations for Reader and Task.