Text Complexity Analysis of

Born During a Drought: Bad News for Baboons *(title)*

National Science Foundation *(author)*

Recommended Complexity Band: 9-10

Qualitative Measures

Meaning/Purpose: *(Briefly explain the levels of meaning (Literary Text) or purpose (Informational Text.)*
The author's purpose is to discuss how the drought of 2009 affected baboons in the savannas of Kenya. The author's purpose is to also explain researchers' analysis on how the findings on baboons may also have implications for human health. The title and subtitle of the article help reveal the author's two-fold purpose.

Text Structure: *(Briefly describe the structure, organization, and other features of the text.)*
The text is straightforward with logical sequencing. The text uses mostly descriptive and cause/effect text structures. The headings provide clues to what each section of that text is about. The picture may be helpful for readers who are not familiar with what baboons look like.

Language Features: *(Briefly describe the conventions and clarity of the language used in the text, including the complexity of the vocabulary and sentence structures.)*
Language used is not very content heavy. There are a few domain-specific vocabulary words (e.g., *semi-arid savanna, ovulating, fertility, metabolism*). There are a number of academic vocabulary words (e.g., *implications, scrutiny, toll, akin, fared, reduction, resilience, awry, mitigated*).

Knowledge Demands: *(Briefly describe the knowledge demands the text requires of students.)*
The knowledge demands for this article are moderate. If the teacher explains why drought is stressful to an ecosystem and the organisms living in it, the students should have no problem understanding the key points in the article.

Text Description

Briefly describe the text:
This informational text is designed to support reading in the content area. The article discusses how a drought affected the savanna ecosystem found in southern Kenya during 2009. It further addresses how baboons are affected later in life based on the conditions when they are born and the social status they are born into. Based on the research on baboons, the implications on human health are discussed in the latter portion of the article.

Quantitative Measures

Complexity Band Level (provide range): Above 11-12

The text falls above the 11-12 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:
Prior to reading, the teacher may wish to discuss the matriarchal hierarchy found within the yellow baboon populations. The author discusses the impact the environmental conditions can have on the baboons and then suddenly switches gears to mention the effects of their social status as well.

Prior to reading, the teacher may wish to discuss socioeconomic status and how that relates to humans.

Recommended Placement

Briefly explain the recommended placement of the text in a particular grade band: Although the quantitative measure places this text above 11-12, all the qualitative measures except one are at the lower end of the complexity continuum. The language used is largely explicit, the domain-specific vocabulary is minimal, and the degree of background knowledge needed to fully understand the key points of the text is also minimal. This text is recommended for students in the 9-10 grade band.

Reviewed by: Ellen Muse, Brevard Public School, 10/10/16 (Name, School District, Date)