



Text Complexity Analysis of

It's Blackberry Season! Summer Fruits Depend on Pollinators. But Where Have All the Bees Gone? (title)

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Recommended Complexity Band: 6-8

Qualitative Measures

Meaning/Purpose: (Briefly explain the levels of meaning (Literary Text) or purpose (Informational Text.) The purpose of this text is to serve as a brief overview of the importance and role of different kinds of pollinators, to make people aware of their decline, and inform readers on simple steps they can take to help.

Text Structure: (Briefly describe the structure, organization, and other features of the text.) The text structure is mostly descriptive and the article uses a question/answer format. This format makes it easy for readers to navigate the text and locate specific information. The title and subtitle, along with pictures and captions in the online version of the article, can also be helpful for readers, but these features are not essential to understanding 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.) Science vocabulary is not that complex (e.g., *pollinator*, *species*, *ecosystem*, *fertilized*, *habitat*, *nutrients*). There are a few potentially challenging academic words (e.g. *cycling*, *degradation*, *globalization*, *viable*, *diversity*). Language used is largely conventional and straightforward. Struggling readers may need help with two expressions: “out of sync” and “vote with your fork.”

Knowledge Demands: (Briefly describe the knowledge demands the text requires of students.) Students need to have a basic knowledge of how pollinators such as bees and butterflies pollinate flowers. Students should also know the difference between pollination and reproduction.

Text Description

Briefly describe the text: This informational text is designed to support reading in the content area. The article introduces the reader to the importance and role of pollinators, factors contributing to their decline, and easy steps that can be taken to help pollinators.

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 midrange of the 6-8 band and at the low 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:

The teacher may want to show photos of the types of fruit referenced in the beginning of the article. The teacher may also want to provide some photos and additional information on the different types of pollinators mentioned in the answers to questions 7 and 8, as well as a map to show students the location of Madagascar.

Students may not be familiar with the pollination and fertilization process in plants. It is important to differentiate between the two ideas.

Recommended Placement

Briefly explain the recommended placement of the text in a particular grade band: The quantitative measure falls in the 6-8 and 9-10 grade bands. The quantitative measures all fall largely at the lower end of the complexity continuum, and the considerations for reader and task are minimal. Considering all three parts of the text complexity triangle, this text is most appropriately complex for students in grades 6-8.