

Martin Luther King Jr. Text Complexity

QUALITATIVE MEASURES	QUANTITATIVE MEASURES
<p>Levels of Meaning Multiple themes are addressed throughout the book, increasing the complexity of this text. Themes include human rights, freedom, peace, love vs. hate, and right vs. wrong. The central theme students will focus on throughout the book is that Martin Luther King Jr. is an important person to know about because he believed in peace. Students will evaluate how the freedom fighters used peaceful protest throughout the civil rights movement.</p> <p>Structure This biography is told chronologically. What makes the structure complex is the genre itself, because a biography of Martin Luther King Jr. requires a great deal of background knowledge about U.S. history and the civil rights movement. Throughout the book, Rob Lloyd Jones uses photographs, captions, and quotes from primary documents to strengthen the reader’s understanding of the time period.</p> <p>Language Conventionalty and Clarity The vocabulary in this biography is high level and domain specific. Figurative as well as historical language adds depth to the text.</p> <p>Knowledge Demands Students will need to have a great deal of background knowledge about the time period.</p>	<p>The Lexile level for <i>Martin Luther King Jr.</i> is 900, based on word frequency and sentence length. This is in the high range of the complexity band for 4th–5th grade according to the Common Core State Standards.</p> <p>READER TASK CONSIDERATIONS</p> <p>These should be determined locally with reference to motivation, knowledge, and experiences as well as to purpose and the complexity of the tasks assigned and the questions posed.</p>