

Maniac Magee Text Complexity

QUALITATIVE MEASURES	QUANTITATIVE MEASURES
<p>Levels of Meaning There are multiple themes throughout the book, which increase the complexity of the text. Themes include: war vs. peace, love vs. hate, and right vs. wrong. The book also explores relationships that cross the boundaries of race and age. Homelessness is a topic that is also explored in this book.</p> <p>Structure This legend is told chronologically; however, there is an eight-year gap in the story line. The reader will have to infer what took place during those years. The genre is challenging for readers because exaggeration is used to convey the message of the story. Readers will have to separate fact and fiction.</p> <p>Language Conventionalilty and Clarity Figurative language adds depth to this text. Short phrases add challenge as readers must infer details.</p> <p>Knowledge Demands Background knowledge about racism and prejudice will be needed to understand the conflict in the story. The intertextual connection to the story “The Good Samaritan” will allow the reader to gain a deeper understanding of themes in the book.</p>	<p>The Lexile level for <i>Maniac Magee</i> is 820 based on word frequency and sentence length. This is in the middle 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>