

Streams to the River, River to the Sea Text Complexity

QUALITATIVE MEASURES	QUANTITATIVE MEASURES
<p>Levels of Meaning Multiple themes throughout the book increase the challenge for readers of this text. Themes include but are not limited to fate vs. free will, freedom vs. slavery, overcoming hardships, and the importance of one person’s life in history. These themes are conveyed through the author’s use of a female, Native American protagonist and a repetitive use of symbolism.</p> <p>Structure The narrative is told chronologically. What makes the structure complex is the ambiguous reference to time throughout the story. The reader has to use clues in the text to infer how much time has passed between one event and another. In addition, the author tells the events of the journey through descriptions found in the Lewis and Clark journals. Therefore, the reader has to infer what has happened during undocumented time periods. Cause and effect relationships contribute to the structure of this novel.</p> <p>Language Conventinality and Clarity Historical language and dialect add depth to the language of this text. The author’s use of symbolism increases the text demand.</p> <p>Knowledge Demands Students will need to have a great deal of background knowledge about the time period before, during, and after this story. Background knowledge should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge of the Revolutionary War • Understanding of the Louisiana Purchase • A visualization of the United States during the 1800s • An understanding of North American Indian tribes • Knowledge of the Lewis and Clark journey and its significance 	<p>The Lexile level for <i>Streams to the River, River to the Sea</i> is 740, based on word frequency and sentence length. This is in the low 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>