

Chains 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 freedom vs. slavery, the value of freedom, the effects of war, and the role of government. These themes are conveyed through the author’s use of symbolism and metaphor.</p> <p>Structure This narrative is told in sequential order. Each chapter title gives a date, which references the timeline of historical events. What makes the structure of this text complex is Anderson’s use of primary documents at the beginning of each chapter to give credibility to the fictional story she tells. In addition, the genre historical fiction is a more complex genre than realistic fiction, requiring background knowledge and the ability to distinguish between factual information and fictional story.</p> <p>Language Conventinality and Clarity Historical language and dialect add a greater depth to the language of this text. In addition, vocabulary used throughout the text is advanced vocabulary for fifth grade students.</p> <p>Knowledge Demands While reading, students will need to rely on their understanding of colonial America, slavery, causes of the Revolutionary War, major events of the Revolutionary War, the Declaration of Independence, and influential people from this time period. In addition, students will need to rely on their understanding of symbolism and metaphor, including some understanding of the Biblical story of the Israelites crossing the River Jordan and its significance to American slaves.</p>	<p>The Lexile level for <i>Chains</i> is 780, based on word frequency and sentence length. This is in the upper 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 the purpose and complexity of the tasks assigned and the questions posed.</p>