

## *The Westing Game* Text Complexity

QUALITATIVE MEASURES	QUANTITATIVE MEASURES
<p><b>Levels of Meaning</b> Multiple themes throughout the book increase the challenge for readers of this text. Themes include but are not limited to the American Dream, self-improvement, redemption, capitalism, and the philosophy of success. These themes are conveyed through the author’s use of symbolism and the development of the problem throughout the book.</p> <p><b>Structure</b> While this story is told in sequential order, it is a puzzle-mystery, and therefore the plot is complex. Readers will have to keep track of a large list of characters and details related to those characters. In addition, the genre mystery is a more complex genre than realistic fiction because it requires the reader to change his/her opinion of the characters across the text.</p> <p><b>Language Conventinality and Clarity</b> Much of the complex vocabulary needed for understanding is inferred throughout the story. These inferred words are advanced vocabulary words for sixth-grade students.</p> <p><b>Knowledge Demands</b> While reading, students will need to rely on their understanding of American symbolism and the American Dream. Students will read about the Salem witch trials and Andrew Carnegie in order to gain a deeper understanding of the story line of <i>The Westing Game</i>.</p>	<p>The Lexile level for <i>The Westing Game</i> is 750, based on word frequency and sentence length. This is in the upper range of the complexity band for 2<sup>nd</sup>–3<sup>rd</sup> grade according to the Common Core State Standards. Qualitative demands make this a more appropriate choice for sixth grade.</p> <p><b>READER TASK CONSIDERATIONS</b></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>