AUSSIE Text Complexity Rubric for New York City Schools—Literary Text

	Simple Texts	Somewhat Complex Texts	Complex Texts	Very Complex Texts
Layout	Consistent placement of text, regular word and line spacing, often large plain font	May have longer passages of uninterrupted text	Longer passages of uninterrupted text may include columns or other variations in layout, often smaller more elaborate font	Very long passages of uninterrupted text that may include columns or other variations in layout, often small densely packed print
	Extensive illustrations that directly support and help interpret the written text	A range of illustrations that support selected parts of the text	A few illustrations that support the text	Minimal illustrations that support the text
	Supportive signposting and enhancements	Reduced signposting and enhancements	Minimal signposting and/or enhancements	Integrated signposting conforming to literary devices. No enhancements
Purpose and Meaning	Purpose usually stated explicitly in the title or in the beginning of the text	Purpose tends to be revealed early in the text, but may be conveyed with some subtlety	Purpose is implicit and may be revealed over the entirety of the text	Purpose implicit or subtle, is sometimes ambiguous and revealed over the entirety of the text
	One level of meaning	More than one level of meaning, with levels clearly distinguished from each other	Several levels of meaning that may be difficult to identify/separate	Several levels and competing elements of meaning that are difficult to identify/separate and interpret
	Theme is obvious and revealed early in the text	Theme is clear and revealed early in the text, but may be conveyed with some subtlety	Theme may be implicit or subtle, is sometimes ambiguous, and may be revealed over the entirely of the text	Theme is implicit or subtle, is often ambiguous, and is revealed over the entirety of the text
Structure	The organization of the text is clear, chronological and/or easy to predict	The organization of the text may have additional characters, two or more storylines and is occasionally difficult to predict	The organization of the text may include subplots, time shifts, and more complex characters	The organization of the text is intricate with regard to elements such as narrative viewpoint, time shifts, multiple characters, storylines, and detail
	Connections between events or ideas are explicit and clear	Connections among events or ideas are sometimes implicit or subtle	Connections among events or ideas are often implicit or subtle	Connections among events or ideas are implicit or subtle throughout the text
	One text type is evident	Includes different text types	Includes different text types of varying complexity	Includes sustained complex text types and hybrid or non-linear texts
Language Features	Mainly simple sentences	Simple and compound sentences with some more complex constructions	Many complex sentences with increased subordinate phrases and clauses	Many complex sentences, often containing intricate detail or concepts
	Simple, literal language	Mainly literal, common language	Some figurative or literary language	Much figurative or literary language such as metaphor, analogy, and connotative language
	Vocabulary is mostly familiar	Some unfamiliar vocabulary	Includes much new vocabulary and some domain specific (content) vocabulary	Includes extensive unfamiliar vocabulary, and possibly archaic language
Knowledge Demands Fiction	Little assumed personal experience or cultural knowledge	Some assumed personal experience and/or cultural knowledge	Much assumed personal experience and/or cultural knowledge	Extensive, demanding, assumed personal experience and/or cultural knowledge
	Simple ideas	Both simple and more complicated ideas	A range of recognizable ideas and challenging concepts	Many new ideas and/or complex, challenging concepts

AUSSIE Text Complexity Rubric for New York City Schools—Informational Text

	Simple Texts	**Somewhat Complex Texts**	**Complex Texts**	**Very Complex Texts**
Layout	Consistent placement of text, regular word and line spacing, often large plain font	May have longer passages of uninterrupted text, often plain font	Longer passages of uninterrupted text may include columns or other variations in layout, often smaller more elaborate font	Very long passages of uninterrupted text that may include columns or other variations in layout, often small densely packed print
	Graphics and pictures that directly support and help interpret the written text	Graphs, pictures, tables, charts that directly support the text	Essential integrated graphics, tables, charts, formulas (necessary to make meaning of text)	Extensive, intricate, essential integrated tables, charts, formulas necessary to make meaning out of text
	Simple indexes, glossaries	Indexes, glossaries, occasional quotes, references	Quotes, concluding appendices, indexes, glossaries, bibliography	Abstracts, footnotes, citations and detailed indexes, appendices, bibliography
	Supportive signposting and enhancements	Reduced signposting and enhancements	Minimal signposting and/or enhancements	Integrated signposting conforming to disciplinary formats. No enhancements
Purpose and Meaning	A single or simple purpose conveying clear or factual information	Purpose involves conveying a range of more detailed information	Purpose includes explaining or interpreting information	Purpose may include examining/ evaluating complex, sometimes theoretical and contested information
	Meaning is clear, concrete with a narrow focus	Meaning is more involved with a broader focus	Meaning includes more complex concepts and a higher level of detail	Meaning is intricate, with abstract theoretical elements
Structure	The organization of the text is clear, chronological and/or easy to predict	The organization of the text may include a thesis or reasoned explanation in addition to facts	The organization of the text may contain multiple pathways, more than one thesis and/or several genres	The organization of the text is intricate or specialized for a particular discipline
	Connections between ideas, processes or events are explicit and clear	Connections between some ideas, processes or events are implicit or subtle	Connections between an expanded range of ideas, processes or events are deeper and often implicit or subtle	Connections between an extensive range of ideas, processes or events are deep, intricate and often implicit or subtle
	One text type is evident	Includes different text types	Includes different text types of varying complexity	Includes sustained complex text types and hybrid or non-linear texts
Language Features	Mainly simple sentences	Simple and compound sentences with some more complex constructions	Many complex sentences with increased subordinate phrases and clauses or transition words	Many complex sentences, often containing multiple concepts
	Simple language style, sometimes with narrative elements	Increased objective style and passive constructions with higher factual content	Objective/passive style with higher conceptual content and increasing nominalization	Specialized disciplinary style with dense conceptual content and high nominalization
	Vocabulary is mostly familiar	Vocabulary includes some unfamiliar, context-dependent words	Includes much academic vocabulary and some domain specific (content) vocabulary	Includes extensive academic and domain specific (content) vocabulary
Knowledge Demands Fiction	General topic is familiar, with details known by reader	General topic is familiar, with some details new to reader	General topic is somewhat familiar but with many details unknown to reader	General topic is mostly unfamiliar with most details unknown to reader
	Simple, concrete ideas	Both simple and more complicated, abstract ideas	A range of recognizable ideas and challenging abstract concepts	Many new ideas and/or complex, challenging, abstract and theoretical concepts