

Here are two examples of text complexity for grades 6-8, focusing on both qualitative and quantitative aspects:

Example 1: “The Giver” by Lois Lowry

Quantitative (Lexile Level): 760L

The Lexile score falls within the middle school range, indicating moderate complexity in terms of sentence length, vocabulary, and syntactic structure.

Qualitative:

- **Meaning/Purpose:** The themes in *The Giver* are deep and multi-layered. They deal with concepts like freedom, control, and the ethics of memory, which may require inferencing and abstract thinking.
- **Text Structure:** The story is told in a linear, straightforward manner, but it includes some flashbacks and dream sequences that may challenge younger readers.
- **Language Features:** The language is clear but often uses figurative language and symbolism that require interpretation.
- **Knowledge Demands:** The book draws on readers’ understanding of societal structures, ethics, and dystopian literature, which may challenge middle schoolers who lack background in those areas.

Example 2: “A Long Walk to Water” by Linda Sue Park

Quantitative (Lexile Level): 720L

The Lexile score places this book at an accessible level for 6th-8th graders, though the subject matter adds qualitative complexity.

Qualitative:

- **Meaning/Purpose:** The story intertwines two narratives—one of a boy fleeing war and one of a girl seeking water. Themes of survival, hope, and resilience are subtly interwoven and require students to grasp multiple timelines and perspectives.
- **Text Structure:** The dual narratives run parallel, which can be confusing for some readers as the timelines intersect only at the end.
- **Language Features:** The language is simple but vivid, using powerful descriptions to convey the harsh realities of life in Sudan. Some cultural references may need additional explanation.
- **Knowledge Demands:** Students without prior knowledge may find it challenging to understand the socio-political context of Sudan’s civil war and the global water crisis.

Both texts balance accessibility in language with deeper themes and structure, making them fitting examples of text complexity for middle school students.