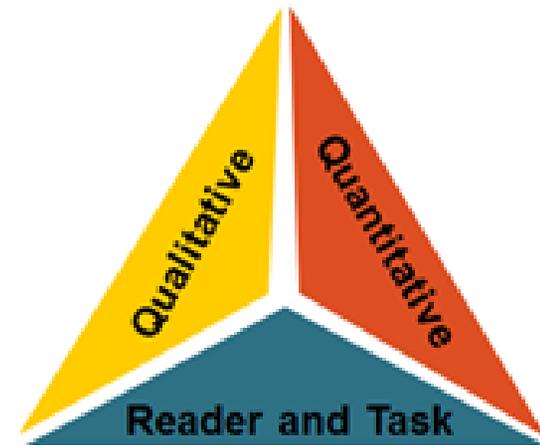


## Measuring Text Complexity: Three Factors

1. Quantitative measures – readability and other scores of text complexity, often best measured by computer software.
2. Qualitative measures – levels of meaning, structure, and language conventionality and clarity, and knowledge demands, often best measured by an attentive human reader.
3. Reader and Task considerations – background knowledge of reader, motivation, interest, and complexity generated by tasks assigned, often best made by educators employing their professional judgment.



Text complexity described in Standard 10 is not limited to the quantitative measure, which deals exclusively with length and number of words. The more rigorous standard considers a qualitative measure, which addresses the levels of meaning, structure, language conventionality and clarity. Reader and task considerations look at the background knowledge of reader, motivation and interest. For instance, Steinbeck's *Grapes of Wrath* may be considered at the second-grade level when looking only at the quantitative measure, but when the language conventions and background knowledge of the reader are considered, it is a ninth grade level.