



Text Complexity Analysis of

Taming of The Shrew

by William Shakespeare

Recommended Complexity Band: 11-CCR Grade

Text Description

This play is a comedy about how Petruchio, a gentleman of Verona, "tames" Katherina to transform her from a "shrew" into an obedient bride.

Qualitative

Meaning/Purpose:

Taming of the Shrew contains several levels of meaning that may be difficult to identify or separate; the theme is implicit or subtle and is revealed over the entire text.

Text Structure:

The organization is intricate with regard to time shifts, multiple characters, storylines and detail.

Language Conventinality and Clarity:

The text is dense and complex with abstract and figurative language. The vocabulary is somewhat complex in that it is sometimes unfamiliar and archaic. The sentence structure is complex with several subordinate phrases or clauses and transition words.

Knowledge Demands:

Taming of the Shrew explores themes of varying levels of complexity. The experiences portrayed are common to many readers. There are a few references or allusions to other texts and cultural elements.

Quantitative

Complexity Band Level:

The quantitative measure for this text places it in the higher range of the 11-CCR text complexity grade band.

Lexile or Other Quantitative Measure of the Text:
1340L

Considerations for Reader and Task

As with all Shakespearean texts, the language provides the biggest barrier to student comprehension. The figurative language, multiple plotlines and structure of the play within the play are specific challenges students have with this play.

Scaffolding will be needed to help students with the knowledge demands of the text. Students may need to create graphic organizers to keep the plotlines separated and manageable. Vocabulary that is not able to be defined in context will need definitions provided. Some students may benefit from additional work with unfamiliar words using strategies on TEACH21.

Recommended Placement

The qualitative and quantitative measures by and large agree on the placement of *Taming of the Shrew* into the upper level of the grades 11-CCR text complexity band which where the Standards have it.