The Castle in the Attic Text Complexity

QUALITATIVE MEASURES	QUANTITATIVE MEASURES
Levels of Meaning The text offers multiple levels of meaning and nuances of abstract concepts related to right and wrong, and good and evil. In addition, the author tells a coming-of-age story, revealing the qualities that prove young adulthood. Critical vocabulary important to the theme is inferred in the text. **Structure** Epic fantasy follows a complex story structure in which there are multiple plots including a real-world and a fantastical-world plot. Readers must infer how these two plots relate to one another and communicate a common theme. **Language Conventionality and Clarity** Elizabeth Winthrop uses language that is fairly literal and clear. Challenges emerge through use of dialect and uncommon vocabulary and through an unconventional use of grammar in dialogue. **Knowledge Demands** General background knowledge about the Middle Ages, knights, kings, and castles is needed to comprehend this text. In addition, readers will make connections to classic stories of King Arthur. Throughout the text there are references to the Code of Chivalry, and there are some biblical references as well.	The Lexile level for *The Castle in the Attic* is 750 based on word frequency and sentence length. This is in the early range of the complexity band for 4th–5th grade according to the Common Core State Standards. **READER TASK CONSIDERATIONS** These should be determined locally with reference to motivation, knowledge, and experiences as well as to purpose and the complexity of the tasks assigned and the questions posed.