

Assessing a student text using Lexis Education's Language and Learning Development Continuum

Case study 1: a 14-year-old English student

Which Phases in the LLDC should I focus on?

From a first reading of the text, which was written under exam conditions, we would predict that the student's achievements lie mainly in Phase 5.

Global assessment

On the basis of this text alone, our analysis confirms our prediction that the student is working in Phase 5.

GENRE

The generic structure of the text is fine for a book review by a 14-year-old student: Context, Text description, and Judgement but the quality of each stage needs improving.

Paragraph 1 should provide sufficient contextual details but there is no reference to the plot, nor to the themes, and it could have stated that the book is the first in a series.

Paragraphs 2-4 are in a logical order: content, then characters, then interpersonal aspects. Each paragraph, however, has a repetitive aspect - they end with a sentence that states essentially the same thing.

The final paragraph provides a judgement and recommendation but it errs by being a reiteration of the first paragraph.

MODE

The writer uses a range of language elements for organising the text, both at the macro-level (whole text and paragraph-level) and at the sentence-level. A prominent feature of the text is that it is more like a spoken text than a written one. Apart from the truncated sentences in the second and third paragraphs, which almost function like run-on sentences, the fourth paragraph has a number of sentences made up of several clauses, typical of spoken language. The few spelling and grammatical mistakes can be put to one side since this text was written under exam conditions.

Many books would interest different people, but what about the perfect novel? A novel that would interest anyone, people of all ages and interests. I believe the novel, *The City of Bones* by Cassandra Clare does just this. It has a little bit of everything and keeps the suspense. It has many characteristics people could relate to and become attached to. I believe that everyone should read this novel.

The novel has a bit of everything in it, drama in the relationships how one of the main characters falls in love with Jace; the bad boy of the book. But her friend Simon has loved her since they were children. Or actually when they have to fight mythical monsters and beasts to save each other from getting killed. Also horror, in how they describe the creatures in the book, describing how gruesome they look. Or if the reader loves fantasy, that is exactly what this book is about, it has witches and warlocks, shadowhunters and so much more. This book interests all ages and anyone interested in any genre or style books.

The book has a range of characters you can relate to, it has characters ranging from teens to all powerful people. Even some animal characters to love. There is the innocent girl Clary who gets caught up in a huge mess when she goes clubbing for the first time, and her nerdy best friend who gets dragged along in the process. She also meet Jace, the dark mysterious bad boy that everyone is interested in. Or Isabelle a dark girl that is strong and independent: a girl no one messes with. Or Alec a boy who is secretly gay and everyone loves. There are so many characters in the book you could absolutely get attached to. There's a character for everyone and everyone.

In *City of Bones*, there is always the suspense whether it's because they getting chased or they're hiding from a creature or there are simply just relationship troubles and you're eager to see if your favourite couple gets together this book will keep you engage from start to finish. If you read this book you will never want to put it down, you will always want to know what happens next. The relationships and action will keep this book going for you.

This book is a book for everyone, it is suspenseful in all ways and has interests for anyone. It has so many characters for you to love whether you like the bad boy or the innocent girl, there is someone for you. I guarantee that if you read this book it will become you're favourite book too.

FIELD

One of the main features in this text is the way it presents the information as lists, using truncated sentence structures such as "But her friend ...", and "Or actually when they ...". This is especially so in the second and third paragraphs. This can be a strong device but the repetitive use of the device in this text dilutes its impact.

The listing allows for the quantity of information but it appears that the writer's choice of having separate paragraphs for the relationships, the characters and themes has meant that any complex connections are difficult to make.

The problem with Field in this text is highlighted when one realises that of the 25 sentences that constitute the text, less than half say something new while most of the sentences are a paraphrase of "A novel that would interest anyone, people of all ages and interests."

TENOR

The writer is aware of the need to engage the reader: "interest", "keeps the suspense", "become attached to", "eager to see", "keep you engaged", "will never want to put it down". Because the text is written in a chatty style, there is repetition and the language chosen does not show a great range.