

Figure 3: Annotation of *The Longitude Prize*

Qualitative Measures	Quantitative Measures
<p><i>Structure</i> The text is moderately complex and subtle in structure. Although the text may appear at first glance to be a conventional narrative, Dash mainly uses narrative elements in the service of illustrating historical and technical points. The long quote adds to the structural challenge.</p> <p><i>Language Conventinality and Clarity</i> Language is used literally and is relatively clear, but numerous archaic, domain-specific, and otherwise unfamiliar terms are introduced in the course of citing primary historical sources and discussing the craft, art, and science of navigation. The quote further adds an archaic language burden.</p> <p><i>Knowledge Demands</i> The text assumes relatively little prior knowledge regarding seafaring and navigation, but some general sense of the concepts of latitude and longitude, the nature of sailing ships, and the historical circumstances that promoted exploration and trade is useful to comprehending the text.</p> <p><i>Purpose</i> The single, relatively clear purpose of the text (not fully apparent in the excerpt but signaled by the title) is to recount the discovery of the concept of longitude. But this is not readily apparent from the excerpt.</p>	<p>Various readability measures of <i>The Longitude Prize</i> are largely in agreement that the text is appropriate for the grades 9–10 text complexity band. The Coh-Metrix analysis notes that the text is primarily informational in structure despite the narrative opening. (Recall from “Why Text Complexity Matters,” above, that research indicates that informational texts are generally harder to read than narratives.) While the text relies on concrete language and goes to some effort to connect central ideas for the reader, it also contains complex syntax and few explicit connections between words and sentences.</p> <p>Reader-Task Considerations These are to be determined locally with reference to such variables as a student’s motivation, knowledge, and experiences as well as purpose and the complexity of the task assigned and the questions posed.</p> <p>Recommended Placement Various quantitative measurements place <i>The Longitude Prize</i> into the grades 9–10 text complexity band; the qualitative analysis would indicate there are enough complex features to warrant its placement in the tenth grade. ATOS: 10.5 DRP®: 66 Lexile®: 1300L Reading Maturity: 8.67 SourceRater: 10.7</p>