

Text structures

Grade 5 Reading Worksheet

Text structure is how information is organized in a nonfiction text. The main types of text structure and their signal words are:

Compare and contrast	like, unlike, both, also, similar to, different from
Problem and solution	problem, because, in order to, one reason for, a solution, since, may be due to, therefore, as a result, solve
Sequence	first, next, then, later, soon, last, after, when, while, suddenly, once
Cause and effect	because, since, as a result, if/then, therefore, due to, for
Description	for instance, for example, such as, to illustrate, most importantly, in addition to, also, to begin with

Identify the text structure in each paragraph, and explain what clues helped you figure it out.

- It's always exciting when a carnival comes to your town or city. The first thing many people notice about carnivals is all the lights. There are rides with bright lights, colorful booths with flashing lights and signs that light up the sky. In addition to the lights, there are sounds everywhere! You may hear music playing, people laughing and workers encouraging people to play games. "Step right up!" the carnival workers like to say. Carnivals also tend to smell delicious. For example, the air is filled with the scents of salty popcorn, cotton candy and fried foods. Most importantly, carnivals are usually filled with feelings of excitement and energy, which makes them a fun place for people of all ages.



Text Structure: _____

I know this because: _____

2. Have you ever noticed that salt can help melt ice even when it's very cold outside? This happens because adding salt to ice can change how water freezes! Regular water freezes at 32°F (0°C). When salt is mixed with water, it lowers its freezing point. This means that water must be even colder in order to freeze! When salt is put on top of ice, it mixes with a thin layer of water on the ice's surface. As a result, the ice begins to melt. Because there is salt and the freezing point is now lower, the water does not refreeze as easily. If the temperature drops extremely low, though, the water and salt mixture can still freeze.



Text Structure: _____

I know this because: _____

3. Planes and helicopters are both vehicles, or aircraft, that can fly through the sky. However, they move in very different ways. Airplanes rely on their wings and engine to fly, while helicopters use their engine and spinning blades called rotors. Planes must continue moving as they fly, and they rely on their wings to keep them in the air. Helicopters, on the other hand, can hover in place thanks to their rotors. They can also move up, down and even sideways, as well as land in small spaces. Unlike helicopters, planes cannot hover, and they need lots of room to take off and land. Both planes and helicopters can be used to transport people and supplies, and both forms of transportation can help in emergencies and rescue situations. Planes are usually faster and can travel farther, while helicopters are better for shorter trips and tighter spaces.



Text Structure: _____

I know this because: _____

4. Bullying is a serious issue that many students experience or witness at school. When someone is teased, left out on purpose or treated unkindly, that is bullying. Some people bully because they want to feel more powerful. Other people may not truly understand how their actions affect others. As a result, students who are bullied can feel sad, scared or alone. In order to solve this problem, it's important for schools to teach students about kindness and respect. Students also need to be encouraged to speak up and tell an adult when they see bullying occur. Bullying is too big an issue for students to handle themselves. Teachers and other adults can help by listening to students and taking action right away. When everyone works together, a safer environment can be created where everyone feels welcome.



Text Structure: _____

I know this because: _____

5. Rainbows can be spectacular. Have you ever seen one after a storm? In order for a rainbow to occur, sunlight must shine through the sky while raindrops are still in the air. When sunlight first enters a raindrop, the light bends and separates into different colors. Next, it reflects off the inside of the raindrop, and then it bends again as it leaves the drop. For this reason, the colors spread out in a rainbow shape. This lets people on the ground see a curved band of colors across the sky! When the sunlight or raindrops disappear, the rainbow fades away too.



Text Structure: _____

I know this because: _____

Answers

The text structures students should identify are:

1. Description
2. Cause/Effect
3. Compare/Contrast
4. Problem/Solution
5. Sequence

Students' explanations will vary, but they should include some of the signal words listed on Page 1.