



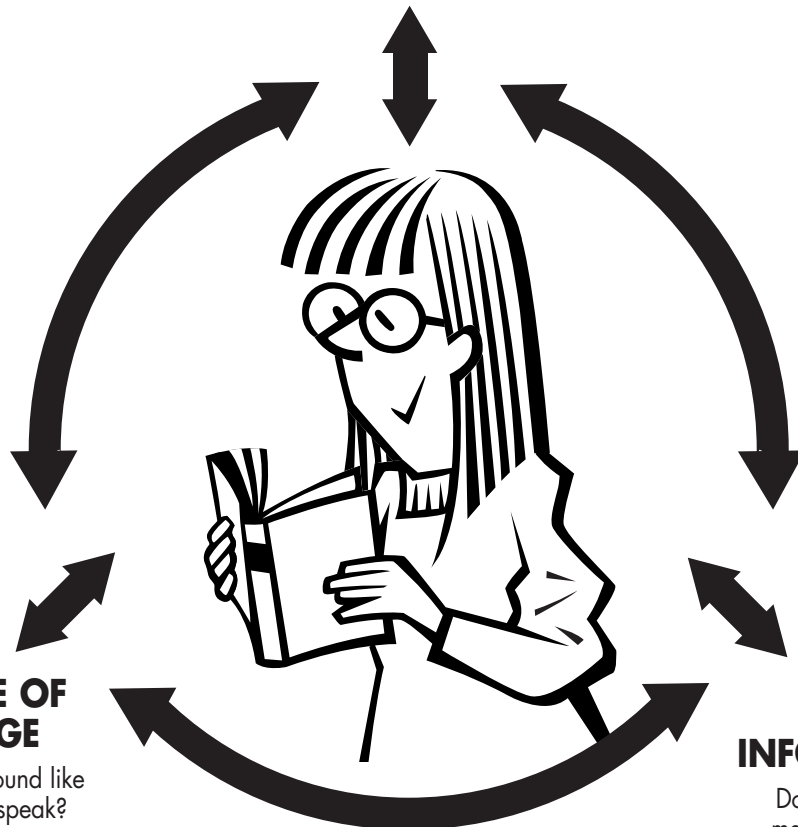
Sources of Information Used by the Reader during Reading

Good readers use many different sources of information when they read.
To monitor your reading ask yourself these questions.

MEANING

Does my reading make sense
with what I already know?

Does my reading fit with
the meaning of this text?



STRUCTURE OF LANGUAGE

Does my reading sound like
the language we speak?

Does my reading sound like
the language of a book?

VISUAL INFORMATION

Does my reading
match what I see?

Thoughts that Come to Mind

When Using Good Reading Strategies

Tapping Prior Knowledge

What do I know about this topic?
What do I know about this genre/author?
What words might I expect to read?

Gathering Information

That's important because ...
I didn't know that ...
That's new or interesting because...

Predicting

I wonder if
I want to know ...
What is going to happen?

Visualizing

I see pictures in my mind when I read ...
I feel what I read ...
It is like a movie in my mind ...

Determining Importance

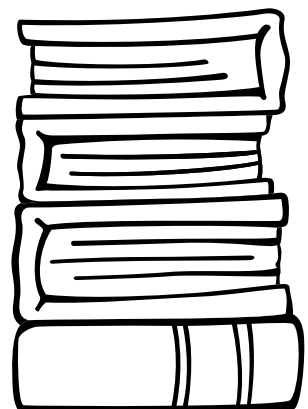
The text was mostly about ...
The author is trying to tell us that ...
The important details were ...

Questioning

I wonder ...
I was confused when ...
Who? What? When? Where? Why?

Word Solving

Do I know a word that fits the meaning and looks like this word?
Do I know a word like this?
Can I divide this word into chunks/syllables?



Making Connections

It reminds me of the time I ... because ...
It reminds me of when I read ... because ...
It reminds me of something I heard about because ...

Monitoring and Fixing

I'm confused ...
That's not right ...
I get this or I don't get this ...

Evaluating/Critiquing

This is unlikely/likely because...
Some important information is missing here because ...
This shows the attitude of the author ...

Inferring

Why did the character do that?
I think he'll turn out to be ...
The author didn't say, but I think ...

Summarizing

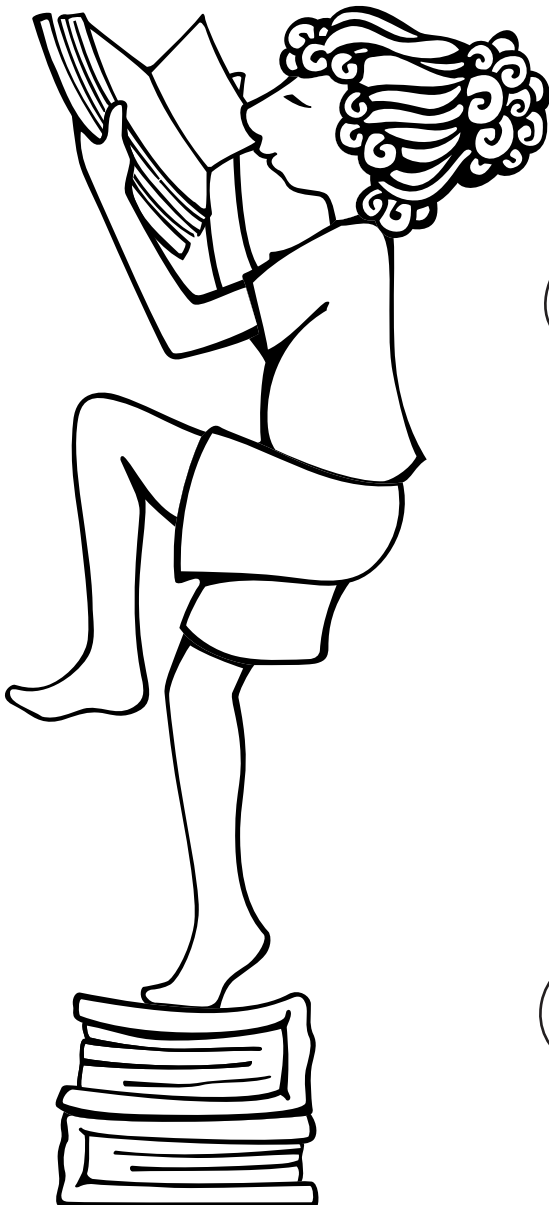
The most important things I learned are ...
What's the most important point or big idea?
What do I now understand?

Analyzing

The author's craft is evident ...
The use of language is skillful ...
The characters are so well developed ...

Synthesizing

I understand this in a new way ...
I see more clearly after reading this ...
That must be one of the reasons it (an event) happened ...



Questions for Figuring Out Unknown Words

What makes sense here?

What sound does the word start with?

Should I skip the word and keep reading?

Are there parts that I know: word families, root words, prefixes, suffixes, endings?

Would a dictionary help me out?

Should I ask someone?

Knowing the **sounds** of the **English** language can help you to read and spell difficult words.

Here are some things for you to think about as you read and write.

Sound	Spellings	Examples
Long a	a-e	gate
	a	acorn
	ai	paid
	ay	play
ch	ch	cheese
	t(u)	picture
	tch	match
	ti	question
Long e	ea	peach
	ee	feet
	e	enough
	e-e	theme
	ea-e	grease
Short e	e	jet
	ea	bread
f	f	fast
	ff	stuff
	ph	phone
j	ge	cage
	g	gem
	j	jewel
l	l	lucky
	ll	ball
	le	middle
m	m	man
	me	home
	mm	rummage
n	n	nail
	ne	done
Long o	o	no
	o-e	stone
	ow	snow
	oa	boat
Short o	o	mop
	a	tall
	au	cause
	aw	paw
oi	oi	boil
	oy	toy

Sound	Spellings	Examples
Long oo	ew	new
	u	blue
	oo	spoon
	u-e	flute
	o-e	lose
	ue	true
	o	to
	ou	soup
	oe	shoe
	oo	cook
Short oo	u	put
	ou	should
ou	ou	cloud
	ow	now
s	s	sip
	ce	chance
	c	cent
	ss	kiss
sh	se	tense
	ti	nation
	sh	shell
t	ci	ancient
	ssi	permission
	t	test
	te	separate
	ed	danced
	tt	putt
Long u	u	unicorn
	u-e	cube
	ue	hue
Short u	u	bug
	o	come
	ou	rough
z	s	president
	se	please
	ze	gauze
	z	zoo
r-controlled	er	her
	ur	burn
	ir	dirt
	or	word
	ear	heard
	our	courage



Literature

Literature is any piece of creative or descriptive writing that is read and/or studied by an audience of readers. This writing may be in the form of fiction (made up by the author), nonfiction (true events or facts presented about a topic), or poetry.

Fiction	Description
Folk Tales	Fairy tales, fables, legends, myths, tall tales, epics are folk tales handed down from one generation to the next as oral stories
Fantasy	A story which contains unrealistic or unworldly elements
Historical Fiction	A story set during a certain time or place in history that may make use of historical figures as characters
Legend	A story handed down from the past by many generations. It has some truth in that it is often based on a real heroic character.
Myth	An old story that is handed down through time that explains something in life or nature. The characters are often gods or goddesses with supernatural powers.
Realistic Fiction	A story that is drawn from the writer's imagination, but is true to life and often discusses real human problems
Science Fiction	A form of fantasy that is based on scientific ideas

Nonfiction	Description
Autobiography	A writer's story about his or her own life
Biography	A writer's story or account of another person's life
Memoir	An account of a personal or historical event
Newspaper Article	A description of an event that explains who, what, where, when, why, and how
Editorial	An article usually found in a newspaper that expresses the writer's opinion on a subject or issue
Reference	Books of information such as: encyclopedias, dictionaries, thesauruses, atlases
Informational	Texts that provide ideas, facts, and principles that are related to the physical, biological, or social world

Poetry	Description
Poetry	Imaginative and creative writing that uses vivid and colorful words arranged in lines and stanzas

Knowing the common characteristics of a particular genre will help you to set a purpose for reading or listening and will make it easier for you to understand the text.

The chart below gives you some questions to think about before, during, and after you read or listen to different kinds of texts.



Genre	Things to think about before, during, and after reading/ listening
Autobiography/Biography	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the important events in this person’s life? • What are some of this person’s important characteristics? • Why did someone write about this person?
Folklore such as folk tales, fables, legends, tall tales, myths, and fairy tales	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who are the heroic characters? • What lesson or moral is being taught? • How is good successful over evil?
Fiction such as realistic fiction, historical fiction, science fiction, and fantasy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What do I know about the elements of the story (i.e., characters, setting, problem, plot, and resolution)? • What is the plot (i.e., exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution)?
Nonfiction/Informational Text	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How is this text organized? • What do I already know about this topic? • What are the key ideas? • What have I learned? • What do the graphics tell me about the topic? • Is this a reliable source?
Poetry such as a ballad, cinquain, haiku, limerick, or free verse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How does this poem make me feel? • What is the poet doing to create images? • How does this poet use and arrange words so it sounds and looks just right? • What do you think the poet was thinking? • What did the poem make you think about?

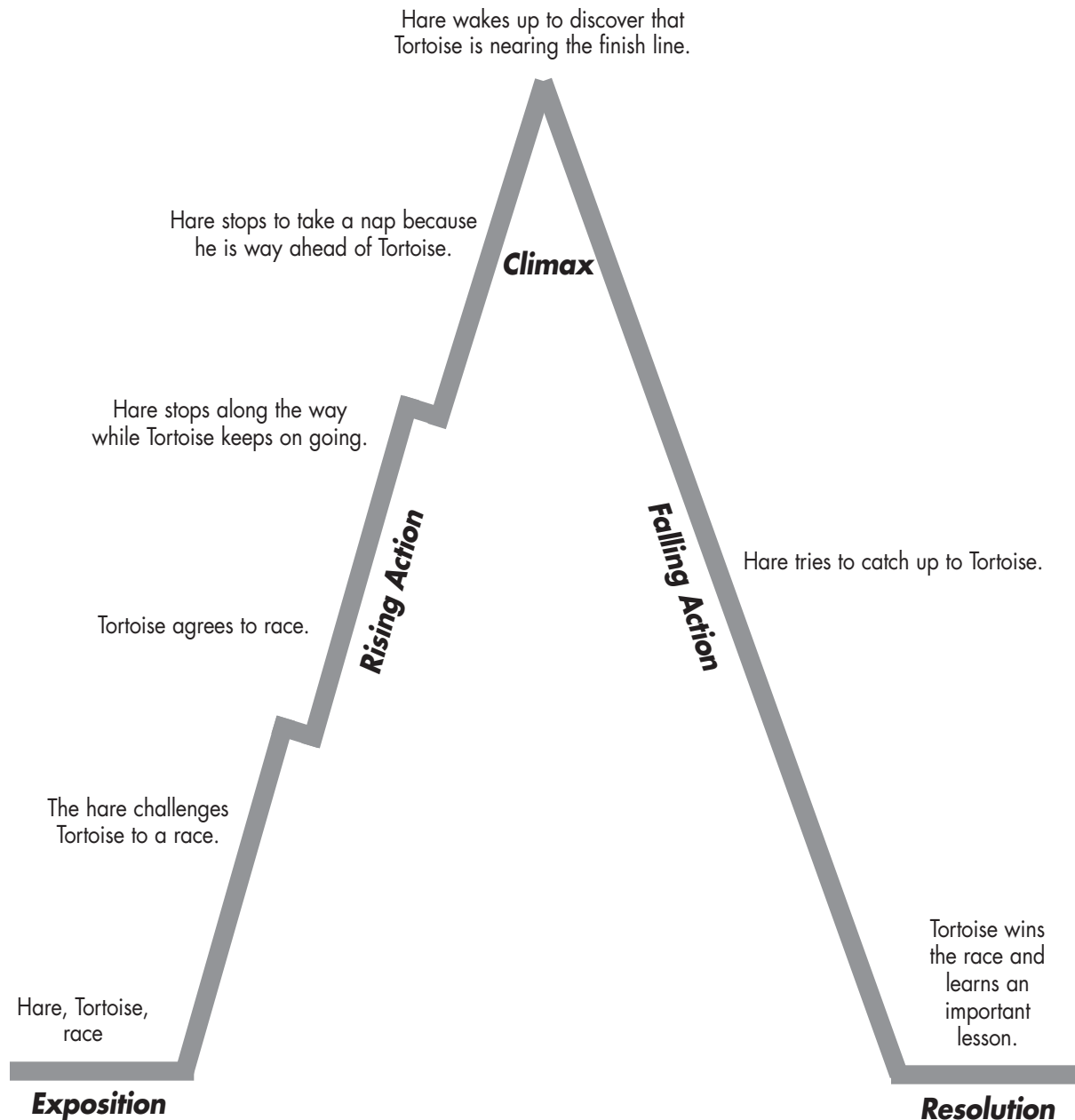
Tracking the Plot

When you read fiction, keeping track of the plot will help you to more clearly understand the story.

Most fiction stories have a plot line with five main parts:

- Exposition – the beginning part of the story that describes the setting and introduces the main characters.
- Rising Action – the part of the story that tells about the problems the characters face.
- Climax – the highest point or turning point of the story.
- Falling Action – the last part of the story that tells what happens after the climax
- Resolution – the ending of the story that tells how things finally turn out.

“The Tortoise and the Hare”



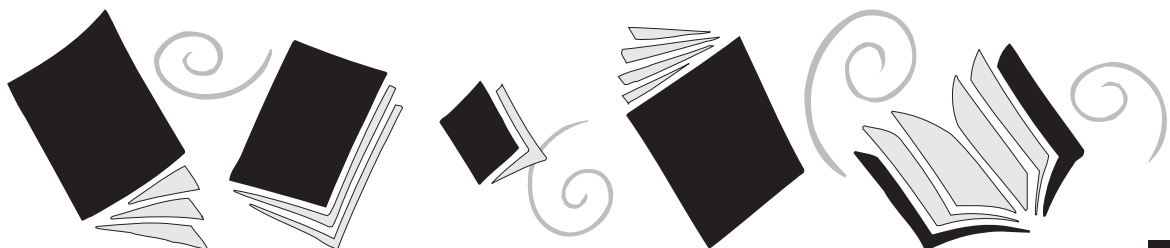
Patterns of Text Structure in Informational Text

Nonfiction or informational text is often organized in certain ways. Knowing how a text or part of a text is organized can help you to understand what you're reading and approach the text with certain questions in mind.

You can use graphic organizers or outlines to help you take notes and organize your thoughts.

The chart below will help you to think of some of the ways that you can think about informational text.

Text Structure	Things to think about before, during and after reading	Words to pay attention to
<p>Description Writing that explains/describes/defines the characteristics of the subject or topic; key ideas are stressed; details are given to support the ideas</p>	<p>What is being described? What are the most important characteristics/ideas? What words help me to visualize?</p>	<p>descriptive adjectives to make images more vivid for example words that tell about color, shape, size, temperature, etc.</p>
<p>Chronological Order Writing where ideas or events are organized in the order in which they happened</p>	<p>What is the sequence of events? What are the major events that occur? What words is the author using to move me through time?</p>	<p><i>first, second, before, after, finally, then, next, earlier, later, last</i></p>
<p>Comparison/Contrast Writing that points out how two or more things are alike and/or different</p>	<p>What is being compared? What do they have in common? How are they different? What conclusion(s) does the author reach? Why is the comparison significant? What words signal the comparison?</p>	<p><i>while, yet, but, rather, most, either, like and unlike, same, as opposed to, as well as, likewise, on the other hand, although, the same, similarly, opposites</i></p>
<p>Cause and Effect Writing that explores the relationship between two or more events, in which one event (the cause) triggers another event (the effect)</p>	<p>What occurred that caused other events to occur? What is the outcome of these events? What words signal a cause/effect pattern?</p>	<p><i>because, since, thus, so that, if...then, therefore, nevertheless, due to, this led to, as a result, then...so, for this reason, on account of, consequently</i></p>
<p>Problem/Solution (Question/Answer) Writing that identifies a problem/question and suggests a solution/answer</p>	<p>What is the problem/solution? Why is the problem/solution important? Is there a cause/effect relationship? If so, what?</p>	<p><i>propose, conclude, a solution, the problem or the question, the research shows, the evidence is, a reason for</i></p>



Literary Terms

Authors and poets use many different techniques and features when they write. These help to convey ideas and feelings and create memorable works of literature. As you become more familiar with these techniques and features you will begin to use them in your own writing.



What is it called?	What does it mean?	What does look like?
Act	A part or section of a play that is usually made up of scenes.	Plays can have two, three, or more acts.
Alliteration	A consonant sound is repeated in words that are close to each other in a poem or story to create rhythm.	The falling flakes fluttered to the ground. Mike mixed some malt in his milk.
Analogy	The comparison of two similar things with the thinking that if they are alike in some ways they are probably alike in other ways too.	Learning to ride a bike is a good analogy for learning to read. You start slowly and are probably a little wobbly at first. Then you have your balance and you are zooming along and reading fluently.
Antagonist	A person or thing who fights against the hero/heroine of a story. Sometimes the antagonist is called the villain.	Darth Vader is a good example of an antagonist. However, an antagonist could be a thing such as a force of nature (wind, earthquake, etc.).
Author's Purpose	The reason an author writes a piece.	Authors write for four main purposes: to entertain, to inform, to express opinions, and to persuade.
Autobiography	The writer tells about his or her own life.	Sally Ride, famous astronaut, tells about her own life in her autobiography.
Ballad	A long poem that tells a story. Ballads usually have strong rhythm and rhyme. Ballads are a form of narrative poetry and are sometimes a song.	Some famous ballads are: Davy Crockett or the Midnight Ride of Paul Revere.
Biography	Gives a factual account of someone's life.	There are many biographies written about Abraham Lincoln.

What is it called?	What does it mean?	What does look like?
Cause and Effect	An event that causes another event to happen. The first event is the cause and the second is the effect.	In the Wizard of Oz the windstorm is the cause or the event that took Dorothy to the land of Oz. Dorothy's experience in Oz is the effect of the storm.
Characterization	The author creates imaginary persons so that they seem real.	We learn about a character from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • what the author tells us • what the character says or does • what other characters say or do with the character
Cinquain	Poetry that has five lines with a certain number of syllables in each line.	Seashells (2) Cockles and clams (4) Collecting on beaches (6) Waiting for me to pick them up (8) Treasures (2)
Climax	The highest point or turning point of the action in the story.	The climax is usually the most suspenseful part of the story.
Comparison	Points out ways that two or more things are alike or similar.	We can make comparisons between the characters of Spiderman and Superman because they are alike in many ways. They are both superheroes who save people from evil.
Concrete Poems	Poetry that shows meaning by the way the words look. The print of the poem takes a shape.	For example, a poet may write a poem about kites in the shape of a kite.
Conflict	The problem or struggle that the characters face in the story.	There are five basic types of conflict: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • person vs. person • person vs. society • person vs. self • person vs. nature • person vs. fate Sometimes the conflict makes a character choose between two important ideas.
Context	The words that surround a particular word and help to determine or deepen its meaning.	Often you can figure out the meaning of a word by re-reading the sentence or paragraph and looking for context clues that give you additional information about the word.
Contrast	Points out ways that two or more things are different or dissimilar.	In Social Studies you can contrast the life of a child in India with the life of a child in the United States.
Couplet	A two-line verse form that usually rhymes and expresses one thought. Some poems are written totally in couplets, other poems have one couplet for a special effect.	Back and forth the dancer whirled, a butterfly with wings unfurled.
Dialogue	The talking that characters do in a story. The characters' exact words have quotation marks around them.	Templeton couldn't resist boasting. "It pays to save things," he said in a surly voice, "A rat never knows when something is going to come in handy." ...from Charlotte's Web

What is it called?	What does it mean?	What does look like?
Drama	A story told by actors who play the characters and show the conflict through their actions and dialogue.	Good actors in a drama or play make the audience believe they really are the character they are playing.
Editorial	A short essay in a magazine or newspaper that expresses the opinion of the writer.	In the morning newspaper a Greece resident shared her concern about the closing of libraries on Saturdays.
Empathy	When you put yourself in someone else's place and imagine how that person must feel.	Sympathy is "feeling sorry for" someone, while empathy takes us closer to the experience by "feeling the same as" someone else.
Essay	A piece of writing that expresses a person's point of view or talks about a single topic.	Strong essays need: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a controlling idea • details to explain, describe, show, or prove the controlling idea • a conclusion that ties the essay together
Exposition	The beginning part of a story or play that describes the setting and introduces the main characters.	Exposition helps the reader get an idea of who, when, and what a story or play is about.
Fable	A brief tale that uses animals as characters and teaches a moral or lesson.	In the famous Aesop fable, The Tortoise and the Hare, the moral is perseverance pays off.
Fairy Tale	Short stories, which contain magic or supernatural characters, good and evil characters. Usually fairy tales end happily ever after.	Many fairy tales begin "Once upon a time..." Beauty and the Beast is a well-known fairy tale.
Falling Action	The last part of the story or play that tells what happens after the climax.	During the falling action the characters' actions are a result of the climax.
Fantasy	A story in which something impossible is made to seem real.	In fantasies animals talk, twiddle their thumbs, or tap their fingers and this seems to make sense to solve the story's problem. Stuart Little is a mouse who seems like a person.
Fiction	Literature that tells stories about characters, settings, and events that the writer makes up.	There are many kinds of fiction. Fiction can be based on real people, real places, or real events, but it is not a true or factual story about them.
Figurative Language	Language used by authors in writing to create a special effect or feeling or to make their writing more interesting.	Similes, metaphors, personification, and imagery are examples of figurative language.
Flashback	An author includes an event or scene from the past in a specific place in the story to help the reader understand what is happening.	A writer sometimes uses a flashback by having an adult character recall a childhood experience that connects to what is happening in the story.

What is it called?	What does it mean?	What does look like?
Folk Tale	Is a story that is made up and passed from one generation to the next. Usually these stories were not written at first, but passed on orally.	Folktales are different from country to country, but people all around the world tell them. Examples of folk tales are fairy tales, legends, myths, and fables.
Foreshadowing	A hint of events to come later in the text.	Dark clouds at the beginning of a story may foreshadow danger that will happen later in the story.
Free Verse	Poetry that does not follow a specific form and often is without rhyme or rhythm.	A poem written in free verse is "free" of set rhythms and rhymes. Poets use free verse because it lets them experiment with the shapes and sounds of language.
Genre	A French word that means type or form of literature.	Different genres may include: biography, fairy tale, historical fiction, nonfiction, etc.
Haiku	Poetry that is about nature and is three lines long. The first line is five syllables; the second, seven; and the third, five.	This form of poetry comes from Japan. "Duckling in the pond (5) Paddling his little legs (7) Reaching for his home (5)"
Historical Fiction	Uses details about real places, events and times from history as the setting for an imagined story.	<i>George Washington's Breakfast</i> and <i>I sailed with Columbus</i> are stories that take place long ago and contain characters that really existed, but the stories are fiction.
Hyperbole	A figure of speech often in poetry in which the writer uses exaggerated comparisons for effect.	It was so hot we fried.
Idiom	Is an everyday saying that uses words in a different way from their usual meaning.	The following are examples of idioms: • "down in the dumps" • "break a leg" • "raining cats and dogs"
Imagery	The use of descriptive words to create a mental picture in the reader's mind.	Imagery appeals to the reader's sight, sound, taste, touch, and smell.
Legend	A fictional story handed down from the past by many generations. It has some truth in that it is often based on a real heroic character.	Johnny Appleseed is a famous American legend.
Limerick	Poetry that is humorous and consists of five lines. The first and second lines rhyme, as do the third and fourth. The fifth line rhymes with the first two lines and is usually humorous or surprising.	There once was a lady from Maine, Who was as thin as a cane; When her bathing was done And the water did run, She slid through the whole in the drain.
List Poem	Poetry that lists objects, events, characteristics, etc. It can be rhymed or unrhymed. Often the title tells what the poem is about.	Also called a catalog poem: Trees Roots underground, Trunk so tall, Branches reaching high, Buds coming alive, Leaves fanning out.

What is it called?	What does it mean?	What does look like?
Lyric	Poetry that is personal and descriptive.	Lyric poetry helps the reader feel through the senses. Lyrics seem like a song.
Main Idea	The one idea that all the sentences in a paragraph tell about.	Sometimes the main idea is stated in a topic sentence, sometimes it is implied.
Metaphor	A comparison of two things that are not alike except in one way.	What a teddy bear he is!
Mood	The feeling that the author wants the reader to get from the story.	The mood of the murder mystery was suspenseful and scary.
Moral	A lesson that the author wants the reader to get from the story.	The moral of the famous story, Little Red Riding Hood is: Never talk to strangers.
Myth	A myth is a fictional story that often explains events in the natural world. Very often people believed these stories to be true. Myths differ from legends because their heroes never really lived.	Myths are often about gods, goddesses, and heroes. Myths were made up to explain how the earth was created, how the sun rises, what causes lightning, etc.
Narrator	The person who is telling the story.	In the story, <i>Bunnicula</i> , Harold, the dog, tells the story of the family he lives with; so the narrator of this story is actually a dog.
Nonfiction	Writing that tells about real people, places, or events.	Biographies, news stories, and informational books are non-fiction.
Novel	Pieces of writing that are fictional and long.	Children often refer to novels as "chapter books."
Onomatopoeia	A type of figurative language in which words sound like the things they name.	Bang, buzz, crackle, sizzle, hiss, murmur, and roar are examples of onomatopoeia.
Opinion	A statement of someone's ideas or feelings.	Opinions cannot be proven, but are formed by knowing facts.
Quatrain	A poem with a four-line stanza.	Sometimes in quatrains the first two lines rhyme and the second two lines rhyme. Sometimes the first and third lines rhyme and the second and fourth lines rhyme.
Personification	A type of figurative language that gives living characteristics to nonliving things.	The sun smiled down on the village. The leaves danced in the wind.
Plot	The action or series of events that make up the story.	The plot contains five main parts: exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution.
Poetry	An expression of an idea or feelings in words.	Poetry usually has form, rhythm, and rhyme.
Point of View	The point of view is who tells the story. Therefore, this person's thinking influences how the story is told.	In the first person point of view the narrator is a character in the story and says words like "I," "me," and "we." In the third person point of view the narrator is not in the story at all. He refers to the characters by name or as "he," "she," "him," "her", or "they."

What is it called?	What does it mean?	What does look like?
Predictions	A prediction is made when a reader or listener uses information from the literature and knowledge of the world to guess what will happen.	After reading the first chapter, the students were able to make a prediction about the ending.
Protagonist	Is the main character in a story. Often called the hero or heroine. The actions are centered on this character.	Luke Skywalker is the protagonist or hero in Star Wars.
Proverbs:	Short, common, wise or thoughtful sayings that make sense in different situations	Proverbs: Birds of a feather flock together. Like father, like son. If the shoe fits wear it. All that glitters is not gold.
Pun	A word or phrase which has a "double meaning."	When Amelia Bedelia is asked to "dress the chicken" she actually tries to put clothes on it.
Repetition	The author repeats a word or phrase to create a special effect or to emphasize something.	The wind hissed, hissed down the valley.
Resolution	Is the ending; it tells how things finally turn out.	The resolution may not always be a happy ending.
Rising Action	The part of the story or play that tells about the problems the characters face.	The rising action moves the story along to the climax through complicated events.
Rhyme	Two or more words that have the same ending sound.	rain - train - brain feet - seat - Pete wheel - deal - squeal
Rhythm	The way a poem flows from one idea to the next.	Often a poem's rhythm follows a definite pattern of accent and unaccented syllables. In free verse the rhythm follows the natural flow of spoken language.
Science Fiction	A fictional story that is based on ideas related to science.	Star Wars is about other forms of life that do not really exist in the universe.
Setting	The time and place in which a story takes place.	In the story, <i>Balto, the Bravest Dog Ever</i> , the setting in Alaska, in the early 1900s, is very important to the events that happen.
Simile	A comparison of two things using the words "like" or "as."	Her eyes gleamed like stars. The house was as large as a castle.
Symbolism	A symbol is something that stands for something else usually it stands for a big idea.	The flag symbolizes our country. Darkness symbolizes evil. A rose can symbolize beauty.
Theme	A statement of the most important idea.	The theme of many fairy tales is that good triumphs over evil.
Tone	The attitude of the author toward his/her subject.	Comic, serious, playful are examples of tone. The author of the Amelia Bedelia series writes with a playful tone.
Writer's Voice	The author chooses words carefully to show personality and to demonstrate interest in the topic.	Writing that sounds believable is often written in an honest, natural voice.

