

Structures and Features

Text Structures

Text structure refers to how the information within a written text is **organized**.

- Cause and Effect
- Comparison/Contrast
- Order/Sequence
- Main idea
- Paragraphs
- Problem solution
- Title
- Sub-title

Text Features

Text feature refers to the details used to enhance the information for better comprehension.

A **simile** is a figure of speech that compares two different things by using the words 'like' or 'as'.

- His skin was **as cold as ice**. (Means his skin is cold)
- He eats **like a pig**. (He eats a lot)

Author use similes to make descriptions more vivid.

A **metaphor** is a figure of speech that compares two very different things.

A metaphor does **not** use *like* or *as*.

A metaphor says that one thing *is* something else.

Expressions are used to give effect to a statement. Imagine how boring a statement such as "he was sad" is compared to a statement describing a "sea of grief." The metaphor is sure to give the reader a better idea of the depths of grief in this situation.

- He *is* the apple of my eye.
There is, of course, no real apple in a person's eye.
The "apple" is someone beloved and held dear.
- He *was* a speeding bullet.

Authors use metaphors to create an impact in the readers mind.

Personification is when an object is giving human characteristics.

- The moon smiled.
- The wind wrapped itself around my face.
- The alarm clock screamed at me this morning.

Authors use personification in writing to emphasize meaning and description. It gives the reader a reference to compare to.

Alliteration is the repetition of the same sound or letter at the beginning of each or most of the words in a sentence. The easiest way to use alliteration would be to repeat the starting letter of the words.

- Anxious ants avoid the anteater's advances.
- Squawking seagulls swoop on sunbathers.
- The wild winds whisk to the west.
- Zany zebras zigzagged through the zoo.

Authors use alliteration in writing to create different effects, either for a reflective description or to create more drama or danger.

Onomatopoeia is a word that imitates the sound or suggests the source of the sound that it describes. It is commonly used in comic strips as action sounds and in nursery rhymes.

- Buzz - for a bee
- Hiss - for a snake
- Woof - for a dog
- Pow - for a punch
- Whoosh - for a rocket taking off

Authors use onomatopoeia to help the reader hear and be involved in the writer's written word, by describing the action with a sound.

Idiom: It is a literary device used in literature and media. An idiom is a saying, phrase, or fixed expression in a culture that has a figurative meaning different from its literal meaning.

- **It's all Greek to me.** = I don't understand it; it's as if it were written in the incomprehensible language of Greek.
- **It costs an arm and a leg.** = It's expensive.
- **You're close, but no cigar.** = You're close to the solution, but not quite there.
- **I'm on pins and needles.** = I'm waiting anxiously.

Authors use idioms to make the readers understand a topic in a humorous way.

Furthermore, idioms are used simply to enhance writing and make it more interesting.

Emphasis is special attention that gives importance to something.

Authors use this technique to draw your attention on purpose.

Method	Usage
<i>Italics</i>	Gives light emphasis.
<u>Underline</u>	More insistent. Works well for emphasis of a complete phrase. Some people only use italic and bold, in which case the difference will cause attention.
Bold	Is clearly visible when you first look at the whole page. Can create tension as they read towards it.
size	Bigger fonts stand out more and small fonts recede.
punctuation!	In particular the exclamation mark, gives a strong emphasis. Use sparingly. Be very careful when using multiple marks!!! It can be interpreted as either enthusiasm or attempted manipulation.
UPPERCASE	Is the written equivalent of shouting. Avoid where possible, <i>including use in headings.</i>
Color	There are many colors you can use. Brighter colors and those towards the red end of the spectrum stand out more. Blues and dark colors are more subtle. A neat usage is in headings (which often include the key message).
<u>COMBINATIONS</u>	You can combine any of the above, shouting in a deafening way.

Illustrations: This is an important feature that enhances or explains a story using pictures, photos or drawing. To *illustrate* means to show or demonstrate something clearly. An effective illustration essay clearly demonstrates and supports a point through the use of evidence.

Decoding picture books: Colour

RED - Danger or anger. Red can also indicate passion.

BLUE - Serenity or sadness. Blue can also signify coldness.

YELLOW - Happiness, cheerfulness.

GREEN - Peacefulness, or nature.

BLACK - Could mean evil or danger when darkness fills the page. When worn, black clothes could mean villainous, or a witch. In western societies it could also mean mourning.

PINK - Girlishness.

ORANGE - Warmth. An orange hue could also show that something is old, like a sepia photograph.

WHITE - Purity. White areas on a page are uncluttered, illuminated.

Black & White - Reminiscent of the past, or 'draining' of colour. Sadness, depression.

Shades of colour - Light and bright represents happiness. Darker shades portray tension or misery.

Imagery: This is the use of vivid description, usually rich in sensory words to create pictures or images, in the reader's mind. Euphoric.

Ex:1 Thought I was on the sheer face of a mountain, the feeling of swinging through the air was euphoric, almost like flying without wings.

Ex:2 Her blue eyes were bright as the sun, blue as the sky, but soft as silk.

Ex:3 The music coursed us, shaking our bodies as if it came from within us.

Imagery is very individual to the writer.

So be creative and remember: detail, detail, detail.