

## Questions to Ask about Report Structure

### Shared Reading Mini Lesson

1. Select a report. Think about how the text structure will improve comprehension.
2. Tell the students that you are going to read part of a text and that you want them to listen to you, and follow the text with their eyes as you read it all the way through.
3. As you are reading ask the students to listen and look carefully at how the author has structured the introduction.
4. Tell them that when you have read the report, you will be discussing how the author made it easy for the listener or the reader to understand the information.
5. Explain to them that often the text structure helps the reader, and that is what you are focusing on today.
6. **Pose the question:** *How does the way the text has been structured help you understand the information or the events better?*
7. Read the text right through.
8. Use a pointer to show the students where you are in the text as you read, and read with expression and phrasing, modeling fluent reading.
9. After the reading discuss the text structure that the author used. You can do this by asking questions such as
  - What are the different stages that the text goes through? (You could point out the opening stage.)
  - What is the purpose of each stage?
  - You could focus on the purpose of the opening stage that states clearly what is being looked at.
  - Which parts of the text talk about
    - Appearance?
    - Location?
    - Behavior?
  - How do the action verbs (leave, paddling, watched, looked) enable you as a reader to understand what is happening in the report?
  - What kind of language does the writer use to describe? (Factual language like: tall, protective, calm, strange, rather than lively imaginative language)

### The following is included for your information

Definition from: *Exploring How Texts Work*. Heinemann 1990

The term 'report' is used in everyday language to refer to many different types of factual texts that store factual information about a class of things.

There are many types of Reports. Among them are

- News reports;
- Science reports;
- Weather reports;
- Police or emergency services incident reports.

## Text Structure & Features

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Each text type has its own peculiar language features.

**The features of Reports include general participants** (e.g. volcanoes, newspapers, the government, team)

- Have many linking verbs (e.g. is, are, has, have, belongs to);
- Have some action verbs (e.g. climb, eat, dress, crash);
- Use linking words to do with time. (e.g. yesterday, when, after, before, during);
- Personal responses may be included.

Use this information to help your students deconstruct the report you have chosen, and to learn the language of report.

**You could construct a chart for Report that includes**

- A definition;
- The text organization;
- The language features.

This would be best done with the students using 'report' language after the reading of a variety of reports through Read Aloud and Shared Reading.

The objective for a Shared Reading would be for the students to notice the structure or organization, and features in the text, that make it a report.