

Text Structures of Informational Text

Narrative	Starts out as a story being told and uses a narrative format.	Page 8 of <i>Girls Think of Everything</i>: “The horses were tired; they were hungry. Time to grab a bite on the journey from Boston to New Bedford: a little hay, maybe some oats.”
Chronological or Sequential	Describes items or events in the order they happened or tells the steps to follow to do something or make something.	Page 10 of <i>Harlem Stomp!</i>: uses a chronological time line to demonstrate events Pages 8 and 9 of <i>Girls Think of Everything</i>: uses a series of steps on how to bake cookies alongside a recipe
Description (Main Idea and Details)	Describes a topic, idea, person, place, or thing and lists its features and characteristics or provides examples.	Page 5 of <i>Harlem Stomp!</i>: “In the 1920’s Harlem was hot. The streets were crowded. The nightclubs were hopping. The theaters were packed to the rafters.”
Comparison (Compare and Contrast)	Shows how two or more things are alike and/or how they are different.	Page 14 of <i>Gorilla Doctors</i>: uses a comparison to describe the two opposing emotions a scientist felt when researching gorillas and feeling terrible after noticing what magnificent creatures they are
Problem and Solution	Tells about a problem (and sometimes says why there is a problem) and provides one or more solutions.	Page 6 of <i>Harlem Stomp!</i>: “he saw people barely able to survive,” “So he founded Tuskegee Normal School which trained blacks for jobs as teachers, maids, carpenters and other manual laborers.”
Question and Answer	Poses a question, either within the text or through a heading, and provides a response or answer.	Page 7 of <i>Harlem Stomp!</i>: On the bottom half of the page the question “What is black?” is posed, and the text that follows supplies answers.
Cause and Effect	Describes why something happened (the cause) and what happened as a result of the cause (the effect). Sometimes the effect is described first.	Page 16 of <i>Gorilla Doctors</i>: “Fossey soon realized that the gorillas and their park were threatened by poachers and by cattle grazing inside the park, so she hired guards to patrol it.”