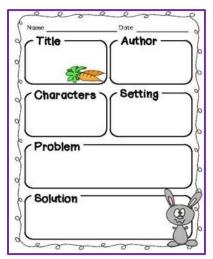
ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS ACTIVITY SHEET COMPREHENSION: NARRATIVE VERSUS EXPOSITORY TEXT STANDARD FOUR

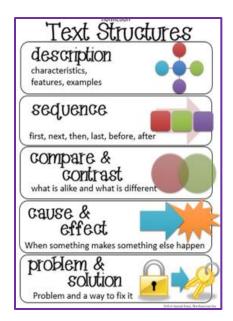
Curriculum Topic: Comprehension

Teaching Point/s: Distinguishing narrative from expository text

Persons write texts for a range of purposes. Texts can be classified as poetry (as in poems) or prose. There are two main types of prose text: narrative and expository.



A <u>narrative</u> tells a story. It is written to entertain. The writer tells of the characters in the story and the problem/s they faced. He describes what the characters did to solve the problem and how things turned out for them at the end of the story. The writer also makes sure to include details about where the events happened. To help readers, he uses words that will help them picture the persons in the story, where they were, how they felt and what they did.



Expository texts, on the other hand, can be written to inform or to instruct. The writer keeps focus on one main idea in each paragraph. Each sentence is used to share details that support the main idea of the paragraph in which it is found. There are five main ways in which this type of text can be organised. These are description, sequence, cause and effect, problem-solution and comparison-contrast. Knowing the type of text being read, and the purpose for which it was written, can help a reader to make sense of text.

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Read each excerpt below. Using the notes provided above, select the option which best describes the kind of text from which the excerpt **most likely** came.

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	⊠Narrative
Example:	□Expository
We galloped over the hills and across the planes. Only two months before,	
we, two prized racehorses, lived at Green Bay Stables. Life here, at Fair	Purpose : The writing suggests
Farms, was very different from life at Green Bay Stables. This flight across	the author meant to entertain.
the fields with Jamie and Jacinta clinging tightly to our manes was proof of	Elements : Characters- Horses
that. Neither horse knew for sure where their young masters were taking	(as narrators), Jamie and
them.	Jacinta
	Setting: Fair Farms
The sun and moon are both seen in the sky from the earth. Although both	
are celestial bodies, the sun is a star while the moon is a mass of rock and	
dirt. The sun is seen during the day and produces the light and heat on	□Narrative
which life forms on earth depend. The moon appears to produce light as	□Expository
well. However, it does not; it reflects light from the sun. The earth revolves	
around the sun, but the moon revolves around the earth.	
Squeeze the juice from 4-6 medium-sized lemons into a cup. Then dissolve	
one cup of granulated sugar in one cup of warm water. Add the lemon juice	□Narrative
to the syrup and stir the mixture. When thoroughly mixed, add two cups of	□Expository
cold water to complete the drink. Chill for fifteen minutes, then serve.	
At first, everyone welcomed the rains. The farm had come alive again. The	
fields of pumpkin drank happily. The ducks paddled gleefully in the now	
refilled pond. Every adult bustled about the farm, putting vessels out in the	□Narrative
open air to catch the rainwater. Lester and his siblings danced playfully in	□Expository
the rain. It was now the fourth day of rain. The earth was waterlogged and	Expository
seemed to be pleading with the sky to cease its crying. If the rain did not let	
up, all the crops would be lost.	
The dumping of waste into rivers and seas adds to the problem of water	
pollution. This type of pollution kills plants and animals. The risk of persons	□Narrative
catching water-borne diseases is increased. One way of dealing with this	□Expository
problem is to teach people about its effects. It is also important to teach of	Expository
ways in which to prevent it.	
The winds played happily among the trees. The river ran freely along a path	
through their roots. The pride lazed along the bank of the river in the shade	
of the trees. Bess and the rest of the cubs were all enjoying this moment.	□Narrative
There was no imminent threat and so they could relish all that nature was	□Expository
offering. It was Nad who first heard it. Within seconds of him raising his	
head, the rest of the pride were in their feet.	

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Answer Key:

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Example: We galloped over the hills and across the planes. Only two months before, we, two prized racehorses, lived at Green Bay Stables. Life here, at Fair Farms, was very different from life at Green Bay Stables. This flight across the fields with Jamie and Jacinta clinging tightly to our manes was proof of that. Neither horse knew for sure where their young masters were taking them.	 ☑Narrative ☑Expository Purpose: The writing suggests the author meant to entertain. Elements: Characters- Horses (as narrators), Jamie and Jacinta Setting: Fair Farms. etc.
The sun and moon are both seen in the sky from the earth. Although both are celestial bodies, the sun is a star while the moon is a mass of rock and dirt. The sun is seen during the day and produces the light and heat on which life forms on earth depend. The moon appears to produce light as well. However, it does not; it reflects light from the sun. The earth revolves around the sun, but the moon revolves around the earth.	□Narrative ⊠Expository
Squeeze the juice from 4-6 medium-sized lemons into a cup. Then dissolve one cup of granulated sugar in one cup of warm water. Add the lemon juice to the syrup and stir the mixture. When thoroughly mixed, add two cups of cold water to complete the drink. Chill for fifteen minutes, then serve.	□Narrative ⊠Expository
At first, everyone welcomed the rains. The farm had come alive again. The fields of pumpkin drank happily. The ducks paddled gleefully in the now refilled pond. Every adult bustled about the farm, putting vessels out in the open air to catch the rainwater. Lester and his siblings danced playfully in the rain. It was now the fourth day of rain. The earth was waterlogged and seemed to be pleading with the sky to cease its crying. If the rain did not let up, all the crops would be lost. The dumping of waste into rivers and seas adds to the problem of water	⊠Narrative □Expository
pollution. This type of pollution kills plants and animals. The risk of persons catching water-borne diseases is increased. One way of dealing with this problem is to teach people about its effects. It is also important to teach of ways in which to prevent it.	□Narrative ⊠Expository
The winds played happily among the trees. The river ran freely along a path through their roots. The pride lazed along the bank of the river in the shade of the trees. Bess and the rest of the cubs were all enjoying this moment. There was no imminent threat and so they could relish all that nature was offering. It was Nad who first heard it. Within seconds of him raising his head, the rest of the pride were in their feet.	⊠Narrative □Expository