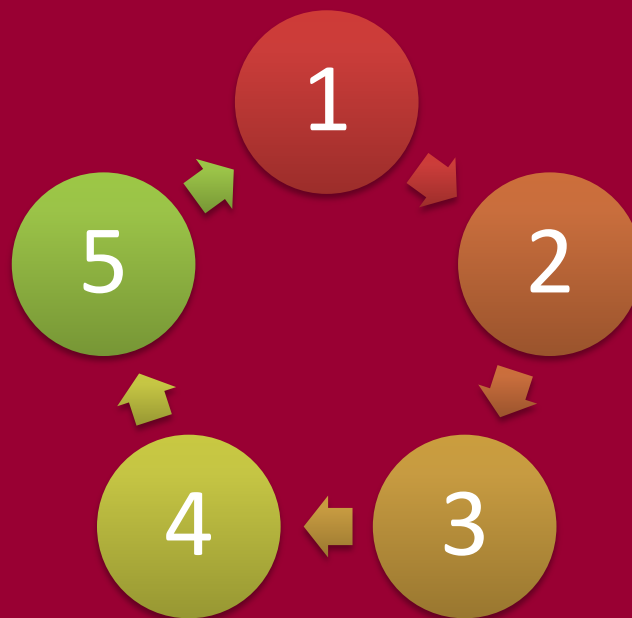


# Teaching Text Structure

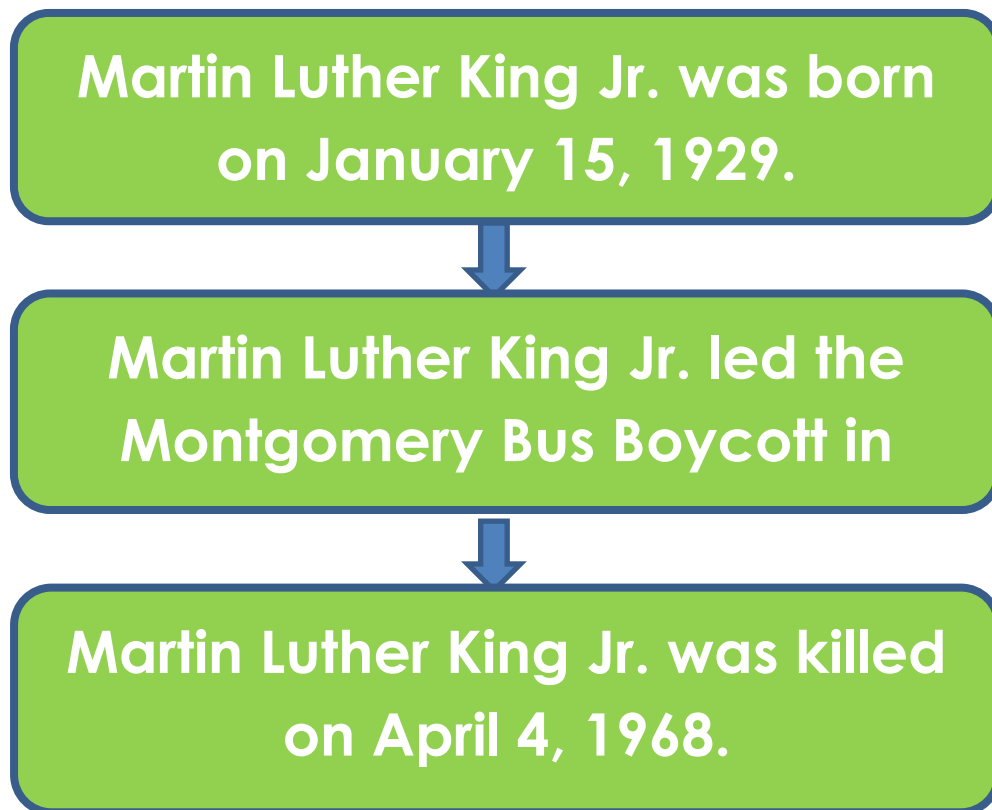


**By Melissa Shutler**

# Sequence Text Structure

When an author writes about a series of events, he or she is using this text structure. Many times, biographies are written in **sequence** because they tell events in the order in which they happen.

When you are reading a book that is organized by sequence, you can use a **flow chart** to list the events in order.

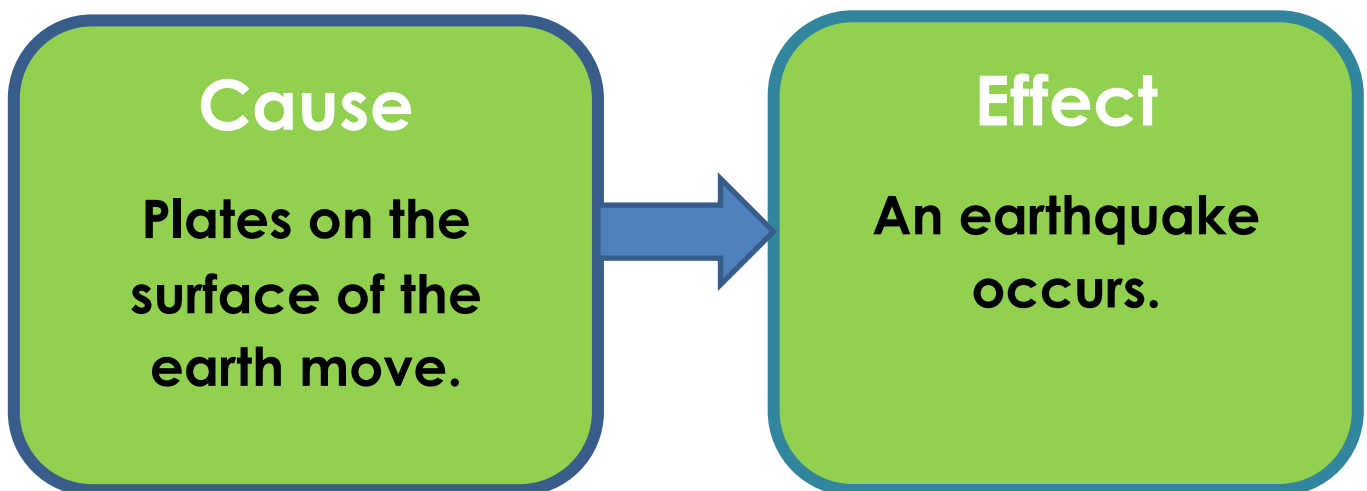


**Look for these key words:** first, next, then, after, finally, before, during

# Cause and Effect Text Structure

When an author writes about something that causes by another event to happen, he or she is writing in the **cause and effect** text structure. Many books on science topics are written in this text structure.

When you are reading a book that is organized by cause and effect, you can use a cause and effect chart to organize your thoughts.

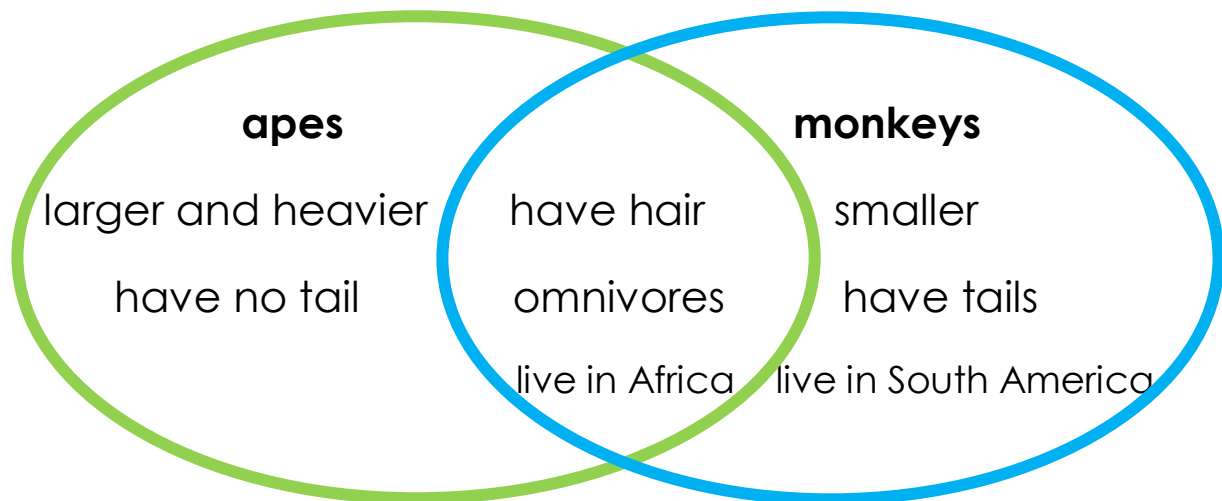


**Look for these key words:** because, since, due to, as a result, unless, so, therefore, reason, cause

# Compare and Contrast Text Structure

When an author explains how two things are alike and/or different, he or she is writing in the **compare and contrast** text structure. Books that are written about two topics often use this structure.

When you are reading a book that is organized by compare and contrast, you can use a Venn diagram to organize your thoughts.



**Look for these key words:** like, unlike, different, the same as, but, similar, both, instead of, however, more, less

# Description Text Structure (Main Idea- Detail)

When an author describes a topic by listing characteristics, examples, and sensory words, he or she is writing in this text structure. Books that are written about animals or countries often are written in this structure.

When you are reading a book that is organized by description, you can use a main idea chart to organize your thoughts.

## Main Idea

Manatees are amazing freshwater mammals.

### Detail

Manatees  
eat plants.

### Detail

Manatees  
face danger  
of being cut  
by boats.

### Detail

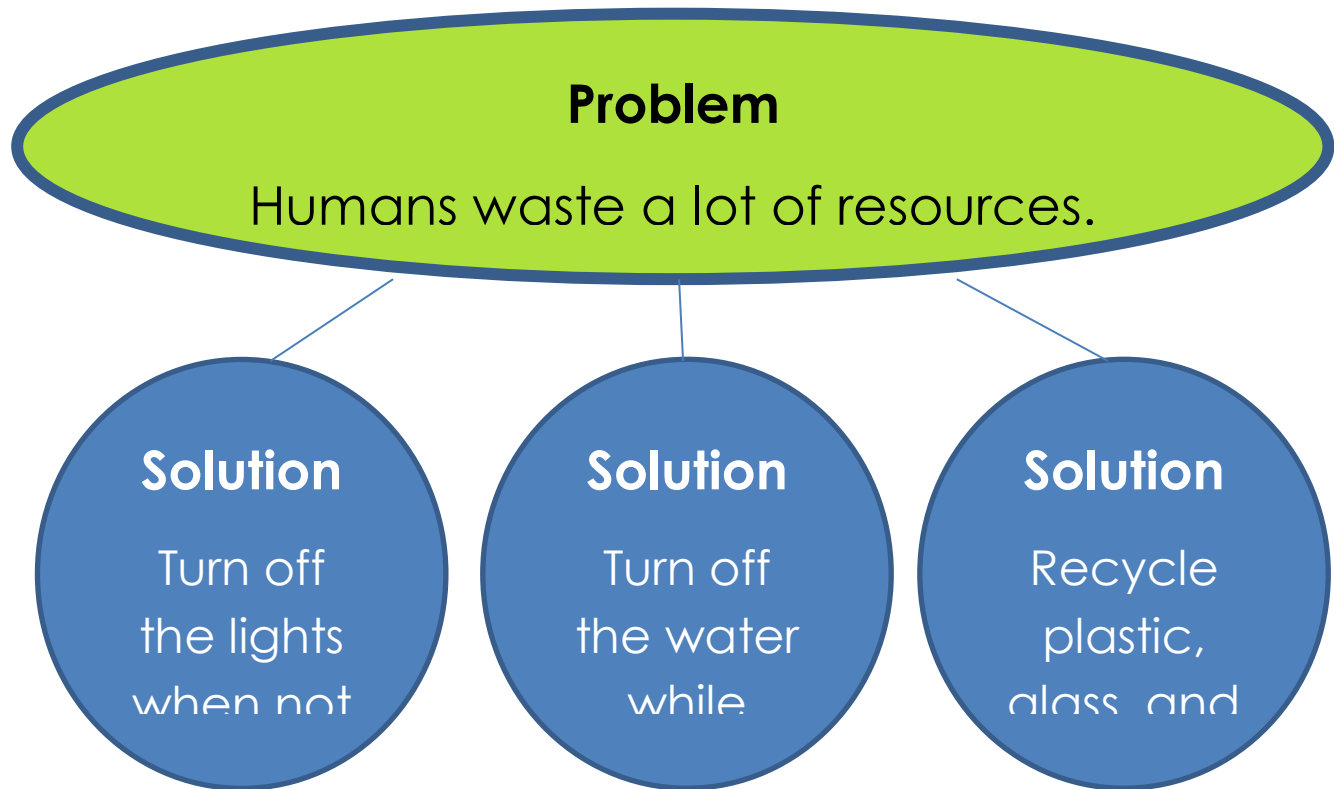
Manatees  
are gentle  
and slow.

**Look for these key words:** for example, for instance, such as, including

# Problem and Solution Text Structure

When an author presents a problem and one or more solutions to the problem, he or she is writing in this text structure. Often books that are persuasive are written in the problem and solution text structure.

When you are reading a book that is organized by problem and solution, you can use a problem/solution chart to organize your thoughts.



**Look for these key words:** problem is, to solve this, so that, solution, one way, question is

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Finding Text Structure

Read each paragraph. **Highlight** key words that you find. Then determine the text structure. Choose from: sequence, cause and effect, compare and contrast, description (main idea/details), and problem/solution.

To make scrambled eggs you need a few eggs, milk, and salt and pepper. First, crack 4 eggs in a bowl. Then add a tablespoon of milk and salt and pepper. Next, use a whisk to beat the egg mixture. After that, pour the egg mixture into an oiled pan over medium heat. Finally, cook and stir the eggs until they are fluffy and no longer runny.

Text structure:

Cats and dogs make nice pets. Both cats and dogs like to get attention from their owners. They both also like to get treats. But they are very different from each other. Dogs need to be taken on walks, but cats do not. Unlike cats, dogs are not able to clean themselves. Both pets take a lot of commitment and love.

Text structure:

My Grandma's house is cozy and dim. She has many cool things to read including magazines and old books from my mom's childhood. She loves to cook for us and makes us things from Germany, such as kuchen, which is a German cake. I love going to my Grandma's house!

Text structure:

Children are given a lot of homework these days. The question is, how do we get it all done when we have so many sports and other activities to do after school? One way is to start on it as soon as you get home from school while it is still fresh in your mind. Another idea is to get half of it done right away and save the other half for after your activities. What other ideas do you have?

Text structure:

We all know that not getting enough sleep makes us grumpy, but it can also cause a lot of other problems. A lack of sleep can make school harder because a tired person is not alert enough to learn. You can also get sick due to lack of sleep. So make sure you get to bed on time! It is important!

Text structure:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

# Finding Text Structure

Look at a nonfiction book. Then look at your notes on text structure to find out how the author organized his or her text.

Book: \_\_\_\_\_ Author: \_\_\_\_\_

I think the author used this text structure: *(Check the box)*

- ☐ Sequence    ☐ Cause and Effect    ☐ Compare and Contrast  
☐ Main Idea/Details    ☐ Problem and Solution

Evidence to back up this text structure: (key words)

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Create a graphic organizer to organize information from the text.

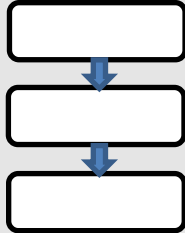




# Key Words!

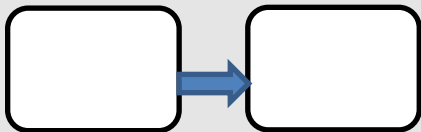
Look for these words to find text structure!

## Sequence



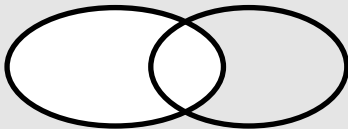
first, next, then, after, finally, before, during

## Cause and Effect



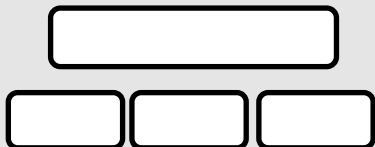
because, since, due to, as a result, unless, so, therefore, reason, cause

## Compare and Contrast



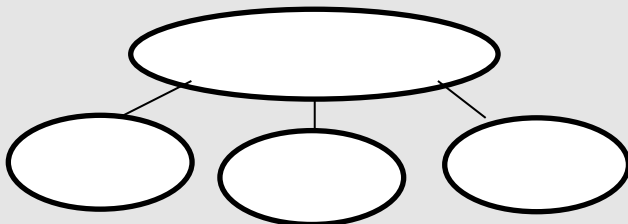
like, unlike, different, same as, but, similar, both, instead of, however, more, less

## Description/ Main Idea- Details



for example, for instance, such as, including

## Problem and Solution



problem is, to solve this, so that, solution, one way, question is

# Picture books to teach text structure

## Sequence

Milk from Cow to Carton by Alik  
Glaciers by Larry Dane Brimner  
A River Ran Wild by Lynne Cherry  
Lights! Camera! Action! By Gail Gibbons  
The Amazing Life of Benjamin Franklin by J.C. Griblin  
Volcano: The Eruption and Healing of Mount St. Helen's by Patricia Lauber  
Electricity by Darlene Lauw  
Castle by D. Macaulay  
The Buck Stops Here by A. Provensen  
A Puffin's Year by Katherine Zecca  
Tuesday by David Wiesner

## Cause and Effect

Why Mosquitoes Buzz in People's Ears by Verna Aardema  
Flash, Crash, Rumble, Roll by F.M. Branley  
Arthur's Eyes by Marc Brown  
The Grouchy Ladybug by Eric Carle  
Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse by Kevin Henkes  
One Fine Day by Nonny Hogrogian  
The Bee Tree by Patricia Polacco  
Fire in the Forest: A cycle of growth and renewal by L. Pringle  
The Napping House by Audrey and Don Wood

## Compare and Contrast

Outside and Inside Trees by S. Markle  
Dogs and Cats by Steve Jenkins  
The Great Fire by J. Murphy  
Horns, Antlers, Fangs, and Tusks by M.J. Rauzon  
Butterflies and Moths by J.P. Rowan  
Crocodiles and Alligators by Seymour Simon  
John, Paul, George, Ben by Lane Smith  
We the People by P. Spier

## Description

The Skeleton Inside You by P. Balestrino  
What the Moon is Like by F.M. Branley  
Extremely Weird Animal Defenses by Sara Lovett  
Feathers by D.H. Patent  
Volcanoes by Seymour Simon  
Think of a Beaver by Karen Wallace

## Problem and Solution

Shocking Science: Fun and Fascinating Electrical Experiments by Shar Levine  
If You Traveled the Underground Railroad by E. Levine  
A Place for Butterflies by Melissa Stewart  
The Man-Eating Tigers of Sundarbans by S. Montgomery  
Here Comes the Garbage Barge by Jonah Winter

# Thank you for your purchase!

Visit my store again for test prep materials and ways to make nonfiction FUN!!

Melissa Shutler

