

READING ACTIVITY-2

READING EXPOSITORY TEXTS* (Structure)

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- Objective** : Enabling readers to identify and analyze text structures in expository texts leading to better comprehension and retention
- Participation** : Individual
- Material:** An expository text (any science book as they often explain)
- Preparation** : Reading focused not merely on comprehending the content but also the way the content is organized, viz. structure

Procedure:

- Reading an expository text as against the other three common modes of texts such as narrative, descriptive or argumentative text and comprehending it thoroughly
- Focusing on the way the text is structured by attempting to locate the signal or cue words

Expository texts commonly follow any one of the five structures – comparison and contrast, cause and effect, definition and example, problem and solution and proposition and support. At times combination of two or more structures are also found. Each structure has its own cue words and becoming familiar with them could enable readers to understand the texts better.

An example: Feature and documentary films

Feature films and documentaries share certain common features but at the same time they differ vastly. A significant difference between them is feature films are mostly fictional, whereas documentaries are non-fictional, dealing with real issues, persons, places or things. Another difference is that feature films are made essentially to entertain the audience or to enable them to escape into the world of fantasy. On the other hand documentaries are informative, meant to engage and captivate the audience. Further, to make one feature film millions is spent, while documentaries are usually less expensive. Besides several differences, there are also certain similarities and one of them is similar to feature films documentaries also have controlled plot and selection of details for portraying characters.

(The underlined words/expressions are indicators of the textual pattern.)

- Texts of other structures of expository are to be read with emphasis on the signal words which signpost the pattern.

Learning outcomes:

1. Readers realize that by identifying the underlying structure of a text their comprehension and appreciation of the text is heightened.
2. Readers are able to get under the skin of the writer and recognize the way the author's mind worked while composing the text. This would enable them to become better writers.

Further activity: Reading any expository text with a conscious focus on identifying and analyzing text structures.

***Expository texts:** Any text that attempts to inform, instruct, explain, describe or define a subject, method, idea or an issue is called expository text. They are of different kinds which include history, science, sports, biographies, manuals, textbooks and newspapers. They are fact-based and written in a clear and logical order.