6th Language Arts
Mrs. Nichols

Unit One Study Guide- Fiction and Non-Fiction

Text Features- gives the reader more information and understanding about the topic that they are reading. These features include the components of a story or article, that are not the main body of the text, and they help the reader navigate the text more easily.

Examples: table of contents, headings, subheadings, titles, subtitles, bold/italics/underlined words, highlighted words, captions, photographs, illustrations, graphs, charts, maps, dates, legends, timelines, glossary, index

Main Idea- the purpose of the paragraph, text, or passage; all of the information presented in the text should connect with the main idea. It is the biggest idea in the text! Ask yourself, "What is the text mostly about?" *Hint:* Many times, tests ask, "Another good title for this passage would be…" It's just another way of asking for the main idea!

Supporting Details- details of the main idea that support an argument or author's purpose for writing; usually tells who, what, when, where, and why. The supporting details prove the value of the main idea.

Plot Diagram- organizational tool used to map out the events and sequence, or plot, of a story. Looks like a mountain.

Exposition- the beginning of the story which includes the setting (date, time, place) and the main characters are introduced as well.

Initiating Event- kicks off the story and introduces the main conflict that the character is facing

Rising Action- this part of the story begins to develop the conflict; suspense and interest occurs. Most of the action in the story takes place here in the rising action. Usually takes up over half of the story!

Climax- the turning point of the story, where the main character will change in some way and come face to face with the conflict; usually 2/3 to ¾ of the way through the story
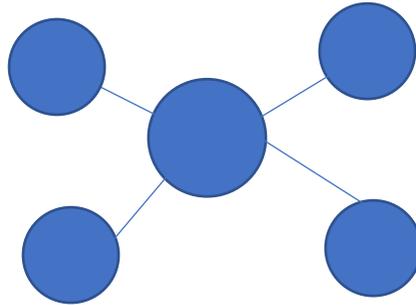
Falling Action- all the loose ends of the plot are tied up and the conflict is addressed.

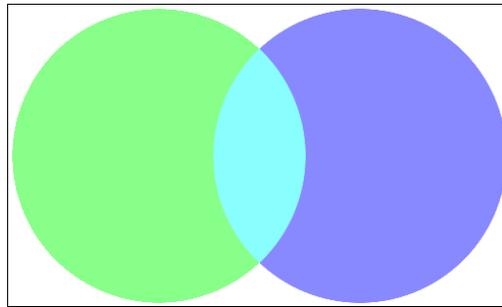**Resolution-** the story comes to a reasonable end and conclusion.

Text Structures/Author's Organizational Pattern- how writers organize information for their readers/audience
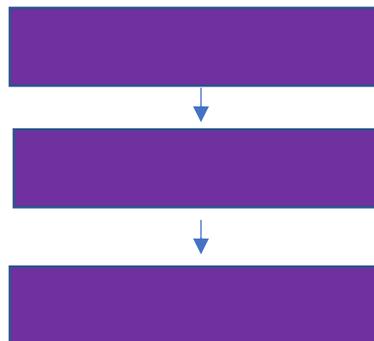
Examples of Text Structures:

- Description- the author provides several details of something to give the reader a mental picture; has many adjectives, characteristics, or examples
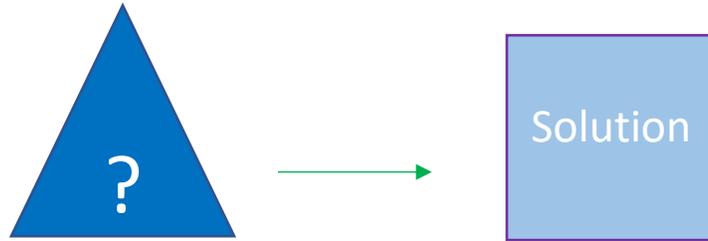
- Compare and Contrast- the author discusses similarities and differences between people, things, concepts, or ideas; likenesses and differences are discussed; *key words*- also, both, in contrast
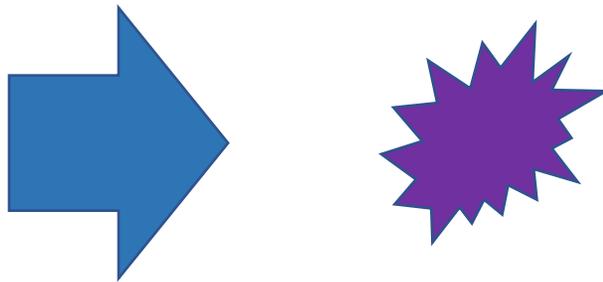
- Chronological Order and Sequence- the author provides readers with chronological events and dates or a list of steps in a procedure; events are in order, there are instructions, step by step; *key words*- first, next, after

- Problem and Solution- the author gives information about a problem and explains one or more solutions; a problem is solved or needs solving; *key words*- problem, solution, solve, I propose

- Cause and Effect- the author describes an event or several events (cause) and the events that follow (effect); *key words*- cause, because, effect, as a result, due to, reason

Figurative Language- Language that is not literal! It is used by the author to make a point, be descriptive, or engage the reader. Examples: simile, metaphor, onomatopoeia, hyperbole, personification.

Context Clues- hints the author gives to help define a word. Affix tree, looking for commas and words such as "or"; finding the synonym, antonym, or definition.