

DOINGWHATWORKS



SAMPLE MATERIAL

Text Structure Activities and Student Work

Garfield Elementary School, Kansas

Topic: Improving K-3 Reading Comprehension

Practice: Focus on Text Structure

Dawn Chappelle, a third- and fourth-grade teacher at Garfield Elementary School, uses this lesson plan when teaching the compare and contrast text structure. It identifies the content and language objectives, supplementary materials, key vocabulary words, background knowledge to build from, and the lesson sequence.

The final activity in the lesson uses Kagan literacy cards to engage students in analyzing text structure. Students learn to use definitions, graphic organizers, and a range of text structures in this activity. Included are two examples of student work using a Venn diagram during the classroom reading activity. *Text Structures Signal Words* lists key words that indicate structures, such as: sequence, cause/effect, compare/contrast, and description. Students can reference this list as they are working on the specific examples in class.

Lesson Plan: Text Structure Books

Dawn Chappelle
Garfield Elementary

Date: November 2010

Grade Level: Third/Fourth

Theme: Text Structure: Compare and Contrast

Content Objective: The learner will identify the text structure compare and contrast.

Language Objective: The learner will preview and read a variety of texts to write about the text structure compare and contrast.

Supplementary Materials:

- 6 page flip books (made from 3 pages of paper folded over)
- A variety of texts featuring the compare and contrast text structure
- Text Structure Quiz-Quiz-Trade from *Balanced Literacy* from Kagan Publishing
- List of Signal Words
- Colored Pencils
- Venn Diagrams

Key Vocabulary:

- Text Structure
- Compare
- Contrast

Building Background:

- Review completed sections of flip book
- Review process
- Read compare/contrast passage about chimpanzees

Lesson Sequence:

Motivation (Building Background):

Review completed sections of flip book by having students read with their shoulder partner. Students will have previously added the definition, signal words and graphic organizers to their flip books.

Presentation (Modeling):

Read a compare and contrast passage about Chimpanzees aloud. Students come up to the SMARTBoard to highlight signal words in the passage.

Practice/Application (Meaningful Activities):

Students should choose a book with their shoulder partner from a tub of compare/contrast books. Students will “Rally Table” by working with shoulder partners to complete a Venn Diagram with their book.

Review/Assessment (Review objectives and vocabulary):

Play “Go to Your Corner” with short text structure passage cards. Use only cards with text structures that you have covered in class.

Text Structure Passages**Question: What text structure is this passage?**

First, sharks use their keen sense of smell to track down an animal for lunch. Then they race toward the prey while steering with their tails. Finally, they open their mouths and bite hard!

Text Structure Passages**Question: What text structure is this passage?**

If a starfish loses one of its arms in a fight, another one will soon grow in its place.

Text Structure Passages**Question: What text structure is this passage?**

Adult and baby langurs are quite different from each other in appearance. Adults have dark fur while babies are bright orange in color when they are born.

Text Structure Passages**Question: What text structure is this passage?**

The shrill train whistle shrieked through the cold, icy night.

Text Structure Passages**Question: What text structure is this passage?**

Because a plate of grapes were out in the hot sun, they turned into raisins within several days.

Text Structure Passages**Question: What text structure is this passage?**

Before you begin to bake chocolate chip cookies, remember to gather all of the ingredients. Next, turn on the oven to preheat it. Then, you are ready to begin measuring and mixing the dough.

Text Structure Passages**Question: What text structure is this passage?**

It is dark as night in the deepest parts of the ocean. Most fish would find it very difficult or impossible to see, but the lantern fish has solved this problem. It carries its own flashlight.

Text Structure Passages**Question: What text structure is this passage?**

Eels are long and thin like snakes. Trying to hold onto an eel is like trying to hold onto a snake.

Text Structure Passages**Question: What text structure is this passage?**

Lobsters are reddish-green and blue in color. They have two claws that can pinch. They also have eight legs. In addition, they have two antennae that help them feel to find out where they are.

Text Structure Passages**Question: What text structure is this passage?**

Carol forgot to add yeast to the dough when she was baking. Therefore, her wheat bread did not rise, and she was not able to eat it.

Text Structure Passages**Question: What text structure is this passage?**

Sue lost her first tooth when she was five years old. Later, when she was six, she lost another tooth. Not long after, Sue lost two teeth in one day.

Text Structure Passages**Question: What text structure is this passage?**

When an enemy tries to attack an armadillo, the armadillo has to plan. If the enemy gets too close, the armadillo rolls up into a hard ball. The hard, bony plates covering its body protect the armadillo.

Text Structure Passages**Question: What text structure is this passage?**

Hippos, walruses, and woodchucks all have large teeth. Hippos use their teeth to scare away enemies. Walruses use their teeth to pull themselves out of the water. Woodchucks use their teeth to chomp through tough plants.

Text Structure Passages**Question: What text structure is this passage?**

Spiders force a liquid out through the spinnerets at the rear end of their bodies. The fluid hardens when it hits the air. The fluid makes silk. This silk may be thick or thin. It may also be sticky or dry. In addition, it may be smooth or bumpy.

Text Structure Passages**Question: What text structure is this passage?**

Very tall trees grow in a tropical rain forest. Because the trees grow so close together, the leaves form a roof high above the ground, called a canopy, which blocks out the sky and the sun.

Text Structures—Definitions & Graphic Organizers**Question**

What text structure is written in a specific time order?

Text Structures—Definitions & Graphic Organizers**Question**

What text structure has events that lead to figuring out the problem at the end?

Text Structures—Definitions & Graphic Organizers**Question**

What text structure compares similarities and differences?

Text Structures—Definitions & Graphic Organizers**Question**

What text structure tells more about someone, something, or someplace?

Text Structures—Definitions & Graphic Organizers**Question**

What text structure explains how something occurred because of something else?

Text Structure Passages**Question: What text structure is this passage?**

First we packed our suitcases. Then we piled into our little car. Before long we were on the way to grandma's house.

Text Structure Passages**Question: What text structure is this passage?**

We didn't know how to get our cat down from the tree after the neighbor's dog chased her. The fire department came to the rescue.

Text Structure Passages**Question: What text structure is this passage?**

Tigers and lions are both cats. However, tigers have stripes and lions do not. Both have very good nighttime vision. Unlike lions, tigers like water and are good swimmers.

Text Structure Passages**Question: What text structure is this passage?**

Butterflies are flying insects with two pairs of large, colorful, scaly wings. The wing scales overlap in rows. The color of the wings gradually fades.

Text Structure Passages**Question: What text structure is this passage?**

We discovered that the batteries in our flashlight were dead when we tried to use it during the storm. Therefore, we were not able to see until the electricity came on.

Text Structure Passages**Question: What text structure is this passage?**

Before putting the model car together, we gathered our supplies. Then we were able to read and follow the directions. Before long our car was completed.

Text Structure Passages**Question: What text structure is this passage?**

Mountain climbers get tired when climbing for many days. They need to sleep, but it is dangerous. Since they might roll off the edge, they sleep on ledges with ropes keeping them from falling off the mountain.

Text Structure Passages**Question: What text structure is this passage?**

Your lungs are like two balloons. When you take a breath, air rushes in, like when you blow up a balloon. When you breathe out, the air goes out and your lungs get smaller just like a balloon.

Text Structure Passages**Question: What text structure is this passage?**

Cats are graceful. They have rounded faces, sandpapery tongues, and needle-like teeth. Cats are many different sizes. They have a variety of colors, fur length, eye colors, and voices.

Text Structure Passages**Question: What text structure is this passage?**

The sun keeps Earth warm. If the sun did not shine on Earth, it would be so cold that no plants, animals, or people could survive. As a result of the sun, there is life on Earth.

Text Structures—Definitions & Graphic Organizers**Question**

What text structure has steps?

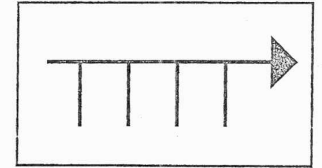
Text Structures—Definitions & Graphic Organizers**Question**

What text structure would use this graphic organizer?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Text Structures—Definitions & Graphic Organizers**Question**

What text structure would use this graphic organizer?

**Text Structures—Definitions & Graphic Organizers****Question**

What text structure has a problem that is solved?

Text Structures—Definitions & Graphic Organizers**Question**

What text structure would use this graphic organizer?

Problem

Event

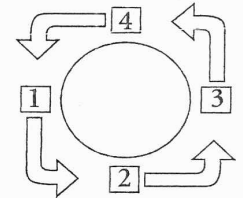
Event

Event

Solution

Text Structures—Definitions & Graphic Organizers**Question**

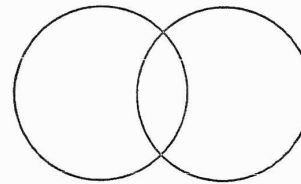
What text structure would use this graphic organizer?

**Text Structures—Definitions & Graphic Organizers****Question**

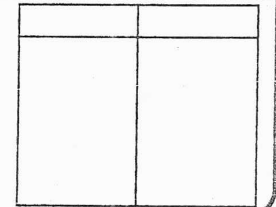
What text structure explains how things are the same or different?

Text Structures—Definitions & Graphic Organizers**Question**

What text structure would use this graphic organizer?

**Text Structures—Definitions & Graphic Organizers****Question**

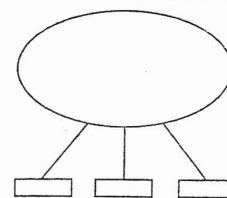
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**Text Structures—Definitions & Graphic Organizers****Question**

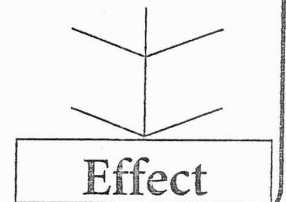
What text structure has details?

Text Structures—Definitions & Graphic Organizers**Question**

What text structure would use this graphic organizer?

**Text Structures—Definitions & Graphic Organizers****Question**

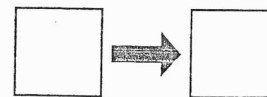
What text structure would use this graphic organizer?

**Text Structures—Definitions & Graphic Organizers****Question**

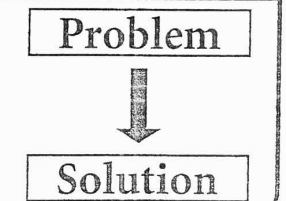
What text structure tells how something makes something else happen?

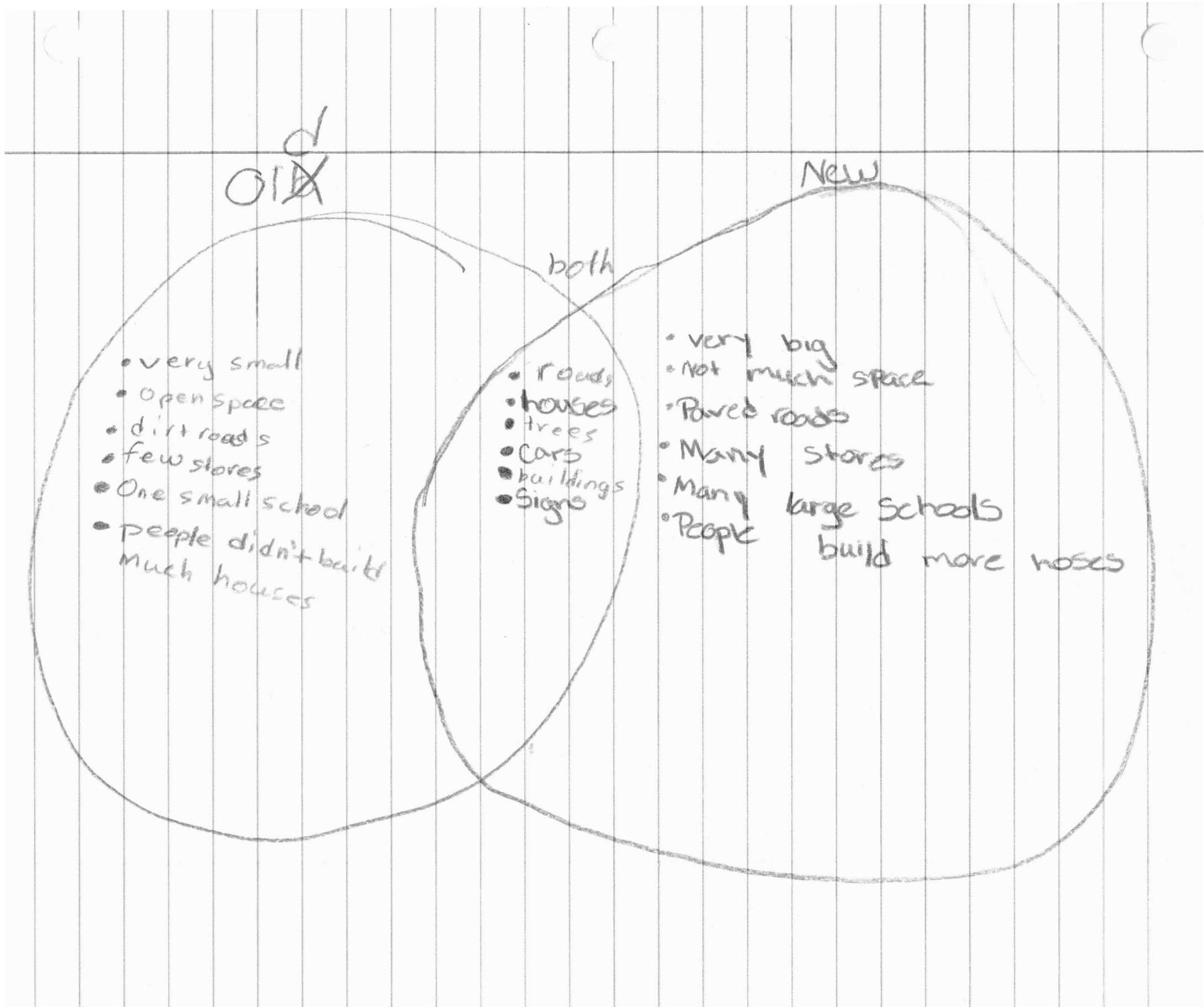
Text Structures—Definitions & Graphic Organizers**Question**

What text structure would use this graphic organizer?

**Text Structures—Definitions & Graphic Organizers****Question**

What text structure would use this graphic organizer?





Our Town

Old

• Smaller.

• There use to be lots of open space around town.

• There use to be dirt roads

• There use to be only a few stores in our town.

There use to be only one school

Both

Both
There were billings

There were dogs

New

• I now the town is bigger

• People built more houses as the town grew

• now there are paved roads

• now there are more stores

There Bigger school now

Text Structure Signal Words

Sequence

first
next
then
initially
before
after
when
finally
preceding
following
afterward
as soon as
during
immediately
later
not long after
now
on (date)
second
soon
third
today
last
another
until
additionally

Cause/Effect

because of
as a result of
in order to
may be due to
effects of
therefore
consequently
for this reason
if . . . then
thus
accordingly
begins with
finally
first
how to
how
is caused by
leads/led to
next
so that
steps involved
when . . . then
thereby
leads to

Compare/Contrast

different from
same as
similar to
as opposed to
instead of
although
however
compared with
as well as
either . . . or
both
but
even though
in common
on the other hand
otherwise
similarly
still
yet
like/unlike
by contrast
in comparison
whereas

Description

for example
for instance
generally
in addition
above
across
along
appears to be
as in
behind
below
beside
between

down
in back of
in front of
looks like
near
on top of
onto
outside
over
such as
to the right/left
under
specifically

in particular