

Part I: Overview

Narrative text structures should be easy to remember because the structure follows a story with a beginning, a middle, and an end. Narrative text includes any type of writing that relates a series of events and includes both fiction (novels, short stories, poems) and nonfiction (memoirs, biographies, news stories). Both forms tell stories that use **imaginative language** and **express emotion**, often through the use of **imagery**, **metaphors**, and **symbols**.

The purpose of narrative text is to **entertain**, to gain and hold a reader's interest; however, writers of memoirs and novels often relate complex stories that examine universal ideas, events, and issues. In addition, speakers, advertisers, and politicians use stories to **persuade** us to accept or reject an idea.

All in all, the narrative form is unique because authors relate ideas they want to express about how people behave and what they believe. These ideas, or **themes**, generally relate to universal truths and make connections to the reader's experiences

Part II: Notes

When previewing narrative text, you should look for specific features to identify it as a narrative text. As you read your piece, use the graphic organizer to gather information for the narrative elements within the text.

- Setting
- Characters
- Conflict
- Plot
- Imagery

Part III: Analysis

After you have reviewed your notes, use them to guide your responses to the prompts that follow.

- **Literal (What does the text say?)**
- **Figurative (How does it say it?)**
- **Interpretation (What does it mean?)**
- **Allusion/Wisdom (Why does it matter?)**

Part IV: Putting it all together

The central idea (main idea) in a piece of writing is the point that the author wants you to remember most. Some writers may state the main idea, but it is often implied, which means the reader has to make inferences (what the text says + what I know) about it. Just like theme in fiction, the central idea is not a topic or phrase; it is a complete sentence.

Subject + What the author says overall about the subject = Central Idea

Determine what you believe the central idea is in the narrative that you read.

The Team activity

1. Choose one of the narratives to read (one per team member).
2. Read the narrative individually and complete the worksheet.
3. After reading, discuss your individual narratives and what you learned.
4. Get a piece of poster paper from me.
5. Get some markers.
6. Write the following information on the poster:

Top

Title of the narrative
Central idea of the narrative
Textual evidence from the narrative that supports the central idea

Bottom

What the narratives have in common



How the narratives are different

(Consider the elements from your graphic organizers to help you with this.)

Title of your text: _____

Setting (Where? When? What is the overall mood? Does it shift?)***There may be more than one.****

Characters (Who? What do you know about them?)

Conflict (What types do you see? How does it lead to tension or suspense?)

Plot (Is there a sequences of events? What seems to be the climax? Is it resolved?)

Imagery (What sensory details does the author use? What images stand out the most?)

What makes this narrative unique from all of the others we have read or seen?

Literal (What does the text say?)

Figurative (How does it say it?)

Interpretation (What does it mean?)

Allusion/Wisdom (Why does it matter?)

Central Idea: