

# 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**.

# Purpose of narratives

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.

# Central 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

# Taking 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

Just get the basic details. You can use bullet points as long as it is specific enough to remember.

# 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?)**

Keep it short. You do not need textual evidence.

# 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.

# Team poster: Narrative analysis

- Write the title of each narrative
- Beneath each title, write a 3-4 sentence summary
- Finally, complete a T-chart as follows:

What the narratives  
have in common (at least 5)

How the narratives are  
different (at least 5)