

Text Structure and Language Features: Example 2

Text Structure - Personal Recount

Orientation - provides background information

Record of events

Reorientation

A FIELD TRIP TO ROTORUA

Two weeks ago some students from our school went to Rotorua for a three day field trip. We decided to go there because we wanted to see the thermal activity.

At 8 o'clock on Wednesday morning we met our teachers at school. Then we travelled for three hours on the bus to Rotorua, about 180 kilometres away. It was hot on the bus and some students went to sleep.

After arriving at Rotorua, we found the motorcamp and were taken to the bunkhouse. When we had unpacked, we went for a walk around Kuirau Park and saw the steam coming out of the ground and the mud pools boiling and bubbling. We had to stay on the paths in case we fell into the hot water.

After that, we walked down to Lake Rotorua and saw Mokoia Island in the middle of the lake. Our teacher told us the legend of Hinemoa, who swam to the island at night, guided by the flute of her lover, Tutanekeai.

On Thursday we went to Whakarewarewa Maori Village. There a guide showed us how the Maori people used to cook food in steaming hot pools and where the geysers of hot water came out of the ground. We also saw a Maori concert party who sang waiata (Maori songs) and performed a haka (war dance) and a dance with poi, which are small soft balls made of dried grasses or plastic.

The next day we left early for the long difficult walk up Mt Tarawera, with our daypacks and lunch. When this mountain last erupted in 1886, it killed many people and destroyed villages and the Pink and White terraces, a famous tourist attraction.

In the evening we packed up and went back home on the bus. We were tired but felt happy after a very good time.

Language Features

Use of word families to build topic information, e.g. mudpools, steam, Rotorua, boiling, bubbling

Use of connectives to sequence events, e.g. then, after

Use of adverbial phrases of time to sequence events, e.g. at night, at 8 o'clock (often used as the first element of the sentence, as this is a recount, so the order of events is important)

Use of prepositional phrases of place, to identify details relating to events e.g. around Kuirau Park, in the middle of the lake

Use of complex clauses to relate meanings causally, e.g. They had to stay on the paths in case they fell into the hot water.

Use of action verbs, e.g. went, walk, swam, erupted

Use of complex noun groups to build up description, e.g. the long difficult walk, the Pink and White terraces, a famous tourist attraction