Text Structure and Language Features: Example 2

Text Structure - Review/Opinion

Context - includes background Information on text, e.g. author, type of work, setting and brief synopsis

Text description - describes main character/s, their relationships and key incidents

Judgement - includes opinion and/or recommendation

THE GOOD EARTH – A REVIEW

'The Good Earth' is the story of a family in China early in the twentieth century. The novel was written by Pearl Buck, an American who lived in China for a long time as a missionary.

The main characters are Wang Lung and O-Lan. They are a married couple who love each other deeply. They have to work hard as peasant farmers, but they share qualities of resourcefulness, bravery, persistence and loyalty. The problem is that it hasn't rained on their farm for a long time, so they have to move.

They moved to the south. Just as before, their work was never-ending. However, one day, O-Lan went into a wealthy house and found a bag of jewels. She gave it to Wang Lung and they were able to buy more land, to establish a farm, and to build a new house.

I very much enjoyed this book and feel that readers of all ages would enjoy it too. 'The Good Earth' is a saga - a story of many generations of one family. It tells of the problems of poor Chinese farmers. They are good people, and this makes their story important to us.

Language Features
Use of present tense; past tense if work has a historical setting - may or may not use temporal sequence of events when relating key incidents

Use of relating verbs, e.g. 'The Good Earth' is the story.

Use of action verbs, e.g. work, moved, gave

Use of saying verbs, e.g. was written

Use of feeling verbs, e.g. love, enjoy, feel

Use of passive voice, e.g. was written

Use of modality, e.g. would

Use of technical language, e.g. novel, characters, author

Use of adjectives, e.g. poor, wealthy, new

Use of detailed noun groups, e.g. a family in China early in the twentieth century

Use of evaluative language, e.g. hard, bravery

Use of persuasive language in judgement, e.g. important, enjoy, good

Use of compound and complex sentences

Use of title of text as sentence theme, e.g. 'The Good Earth' is