

Text Structure and Language Features: Example 2

Text Structure - Factual Narrative

Title

Orientation - introduces main character

Initial complication and record of events

Complication - includes Evaluation

Resolution

SHARK

It was a warm day in March. I was very excited. The day had finally come. I was in the Dragon Boat team for the National Championships.

I got up very early and exercised as always. Then after breakfast my dad drove me to Oriental Bay. My team arrived and it was time to start.

Ready, set and the starting gun went off. We began in third position and were slowly moving closer. There they were. We could see the second boat and then we did it. We moved past. My arms were aching. My whole body was sore but we all rowed harder.

The first boat was just in front when I saw a dark shadow near the boat. I looked again. What was it? I was sure it was the shape of a cigar. "Oh no," I thought, "I must be seeing things. A shark in Oriental Bay? Impossible!"

Just then I felt a hard tug and I pulled my paddle out of the water. "Why only half a paddle?" I thought. Then I knew. I shouted to my team. "Shark! Shark!" and suddenly we forgot the race. We paddled faster than ever back to shore. We made it. At last, we were safe!

Language Features

Use of word families to build information, e.g. National Championships, boat, paddle, race

Use of action verbs, e.g. exercised, went off, moved, drove

Use of various tenses including present, past and infinitive (simple, continuous and perfect forms), e.g. must be seeing, was, looked, were moving, to start

Use of direct speech, e.g. "Shark! Shark!"

Use of saying verbs, e.g. shouted

Use of thinking verbs, e.g. thought

Use of time conjunctions, e.g. then, when

Use of compound sentences, e.g. We began in third position and were slowly moving closer.

Use of adjectives, e.g. excited, closer, faster

Use of adverbs, e.g. slowly, always, harder

Use of adverbial phrases, e.g. near the boat, in front