

Grade 5 Playlist: Structure of a Story, Drama, or Poem

Aligns with CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.5.5:

- Explain how a series of chapters, scenes, or stanzas fits together to provide the overall structure of a particular story, drama, or poem.

Welcome

Think of a book, play, or poem that had uninterrupted chunks of text. How did that experience shape reader comprehension? The structure of books, plays, and poems affects how readers experience and understand texts. Writers use chapters, scenes, and stanzas in order to build the structure of their stories, dramas, and poems. Writers use these tools to break up their writing into sections. The sections organize information and provide clear breaking points for readers to pause and reflect.

Objectives

In this playlist, the student will learn and practice how to:

- explain how a series of chapters fits together to provide the structure of a story.
- explain how a series of scenes fits together to provide the structure of a drama.
- explain how a series of stanzas fits together to provide the structure of a poem.

Review

Key Terms:

- A **climax** is part of a story's organizational structure. It is the turning point in a story.
- An **exposition** is the introduction of a story.
- A **resolution** is part of a story's organizational structure. It is the conclusion, or ending of a story.
- A **denouement** is another word for **resolution**.
- A **chapter** is a section of a work of long fiction.
- A **scene** is a section of a play.
- A **stanza** is a section of a poem.



Exploring the Standard

A Closer Look: Organizational Structure of a Narrative

When an author writes a long piece of fiction, she or he organizes the information to build the components of the story. The narrative structure generally has these elements: an introduction, rising action, the climax, falling action, and the resolution.

The exposition introduces the reader to the setting, characters, and basic information relevant to the plot. The rising action is what happens as events in the story become more complicated. The conflict often is revealed in the exposition or the rising action. The climax is the turning point in the story. It typically contains the most exciting events, and it is most interesting to the reader. The reader wants to continue reading to find out what will happen next. The falling action is what happens after the climax. The events begin to be resolved. The resolution is the part of the story when the events are resolved completely and the story is over.

Read!

See a graphic representation of the plot structure:

- http://www.scholastic.com/teachers/lesson-plan/collateral_resources/pdf/l/lessonplans_graphicorg_pdfs_plotdiagram.pdf

Practice!

Use these graphic organizers to write what happens at each point in a story:

- <http://freeology.com/wp-content/files/storyplotgraph.pdf>
- <http://www.ereadingworksheets.com/reading-worksheets/story-structure-practice.pdf>

Use these flashcards to learn the elements of a plot:

- <https://quizlet.com/96068/flashcards>

Watch!

For practice using a plot development chart to define rising action, climax, and falling action, see this video:

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s6Q7E3fYyYg>

A Closer Look: The Role of Chapters in a Narrative

Chapters can follow the organizational structure of a narrative and build the overall structure of the story. For example, a chapter can be part of the exposition and give the reader background information on a main character. A chapter can be the climax and provide the turning point of the entire novel. Knowing how each chapter works to build the story can help when describing how a series of chapters fits together to build the story.



Teaching Notes: Structure of a Story, Drama, or Poem

The goal of RL.5.5 is for students to be able to explain how a part of a piece of writing contributes to the structure of the whole. The standard includes stories, dramas, and poems. The following information contains ideas that teachers can incorporate into their classroom as well as additional resources to peruse and integrate into instruction as appropriate.

Classroom Activities

1. Read a class novel. Once the class has finished the novel, divide students into groups. Assign each group a different chapter. Ask each group to explain how their chapter fits in with the overall structure of the novel. Groups may draw the plot diagram and explain where their chapter fits into the diagram.
2. To practice the elements of a plot, have students use the graphic organizer provided in the playlist to diagram several stories they have read.
3. Have students work in pairs to write a song that describes the plot elements. Encourage students to be creative.
4. Ask students to create a storyboard for a novel or play that they would like to write. Have them create one visual for each section of the story. They should be able to explain how each section fits in to the overall structure of the whole.

Additional Resources

Consider these additional resources when teaching RL.5.5:

“Poems to Play With (in Class)”: This source explains how to use poetry in the classroom, and includes a list of poems in the public domain that are appropriate for fifth graders at the end:

- http://schools.nyc.gov/documents/teachandlearn/Poems_to_Play_With_in_Class_final.pdf

“Comics in the Classroom as an Introduction to Narrative Structure”: This lesson plan and interactive uses comics to explore narrative structure and allows users to create their own comic:

- <http://www.readwritethink.org/classroom-resources/lesson-plans/comics-classroom-introduction-narrative-223.html>

“Narrative Structures”: This website and interactive further explains narrative structures and allows users to create their own storyboard:

- <http://www.storyboardthat.com/articles/education/english/narrative-structures>

