

The background of the slide is a detailed illustration of a school desk. It features a large sheet of lined paper in the center. To the left, there is a green notebook, a silver pen, and a yellow pencil with a pink eraser. To the right, there is a blue spiral notebook with a drawing of a butterfly, hearts, and the word "hello". At the bottom right, there is a white and orange marker. In the top center, there are some yellow and black shavings, possibly from a pencil sharpener. The desk surface is a light wood grain.

## Structure in Literature





This icon indicates that the slide contains activities created in Flash. These activities are not editable.



This icon indicates that a slide contains audio.



This icon indicates coverage of the Language Standards.



This icon indicates that a worksheet accompanies the slide.



This icon indicates teacher's notes in the Notes field.



This icon indicates an opportunity for collaboration or group work.

## College and Career Readiness Standards for Reading:

5. Analyze the structure of texts, including how specific sentences, paragraphs, and larger portions of the text (e.g., a section, chapter, scene, or stanza) relate to each other and the whole.

**Narrative structure** is the way in which a story is organized. Most novels and short stories have a similar structure. Can you sort the parts of a traditional story into the correct order before the time runs out?

Press **start** to begin.

**start**

60

opening/exposition





Although most stories share a similar basic structure, the order in which authors present events can help readers to understand the author's purpose and adds to the overall effect of the text.

Fiction authors often use a **linear narrative**. This means that the story is told in the order in which events happen.

Sometimes authors choose to tell events in a different order. These are **non-linear narratives**. They may use **flashbacks**, or scenes in which a narrator recalls a past event.

Although they can be confusing, flashbacks can tell the reader more about a character's motivation.

Have you read any stories with these structures?



Here are the openings of three stories.  
Decide whether they start at the beginning,  
middle or end of the events. Make your  
selection from the drop-down menus.

Press **start** to begin.

**start**



How does each opening affect the story's tone?

Different types of sentences have different effects on readers. Long, complex sentences are useful for providing description.

“Over the hedge on one side we looked into a plowed field, and on the other we looked over a gate at our master's house, which stood by the roadside; at the top of the meadow was a grove of fir trees, and at the bottom a running brook overhung by a steep bank.” – Anna Sewell, *Black Beauty*, 1877

Short, simple sentences are useful for creating dramatic effects, especially at the climax of a story.

“I felt that I must scream or die! and now – again! – hark! louder! louder! louder! louder!”

– Edgar Allan Poe, *The Tell-Tale Heart*, 1843



Read the following openings from three classic texts. Discuss how each author has used narrative structure and sentence structure to introduce the plot and themes of the story.

Then press the **Commentary** buttons to read an analysis of the first two openings. For the third excerpt, try writing your own commentary.

Press **start** to begin.

start





One major difference between poetry and prose is structure.

Many poetic forms have very strict structures that determine the number of lines in the poem, the number of syllables per line and even the rhyme and rhythm of the words.

Can you name any poetic forms?

haiku

shape poem

sonnet

acrostic

limerick







**Narrative poems** tell a story.

They are generally (but not always) very long and serious in tone.

Two types of narrative poems are **ballads** and **epics**. Famous ballads include “The Lady of Shalott” by Alfred Tennyson and “The Rime of the Ancient Mariner” by Samuel Taylor Coleridge. Famous epics include “The Iliad” and “The Odyssey,” both by Homer.



A **ballad** is a narrative poem (a poem that tells a story). Ballads usually have a regular rhythm and rhyme pattern and four-line stanzas. They often tell a sad or shocking story.

Read this ballad, "Lucy Gray," by William Wordsworth, and answer the questions at the end. Press on the highlighted text for more information.

Press **start** to begin.

**start**

3 The hare upon the green;



A **lyric poem** is any poem in which a single speaker voices his or her thoughts and feelings.

In some lyric poems, the poet speaks directly to the audience. In others, the poet creates a narrator.

Lyric poems can have a variety of structures. **Sonnets** and **elegies** are both types of lyric poems.

Sonnets are usually on the theme of love, while elegies mourn the loss of a person, place or object.





"The Road Not Taken"

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,

And sorry I could not travel both

And be one traveler, long I stood

And looked down one as it lay

To where it bent in the woods.

Then took the one less traveled by,

And that has made all the difference.

Because it was grassy and wanted wear;

Though as for that the passing travellers

Poems with a single, distinct speaker expressing his or her thoughts and feelings are called lyric poems.

Read Robert Frost's lyric poem "The Road Not Taken" and answer the questions that follow. Press the highlighted text for more information.

Press **start** to begin.

**start**



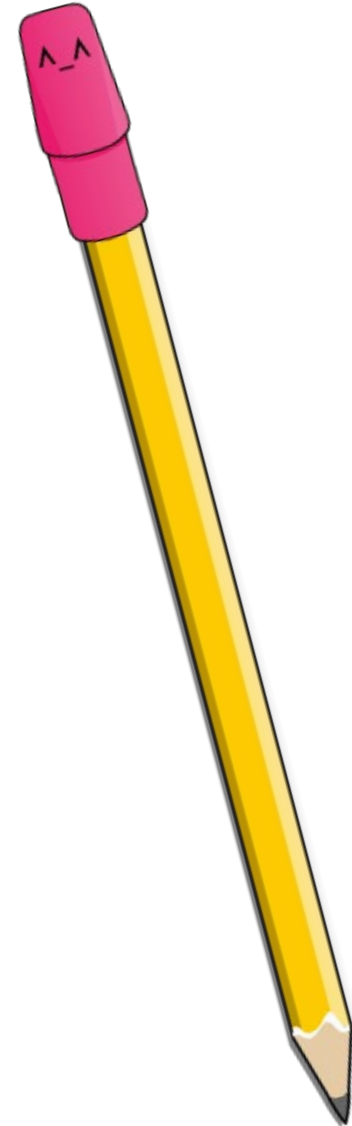




**Free verse**, also known as open verse, has no fixed form and therefore does not need to follow any particular rules.

Many authors of free verse avoid rhymes. The lines of free verse poems do not have a set length or rhythm.

Many modern poets use free verse, as it gives them more freedom to express their ideas and experiment with language.



**Free verse** is poetry that does not conform to a fixed rhythm or rhyme scheme. Many modern poets choose to use free verse rather than a traditional poetic form.

Read and listen to "The Mosquito Knows," by D.H. Lawrence. Consider the questions that follow.

Press **start** to begin.

start





Some forms of poetry lend themselves to certain themes more easily than others.

Can you think of some advantages and disadvantages of each form?



Write a poem in one of these forms, using this picture for inspiration.

How did the form you chose influence the tone of your poem?

