Grade 7: Reading Benchmark

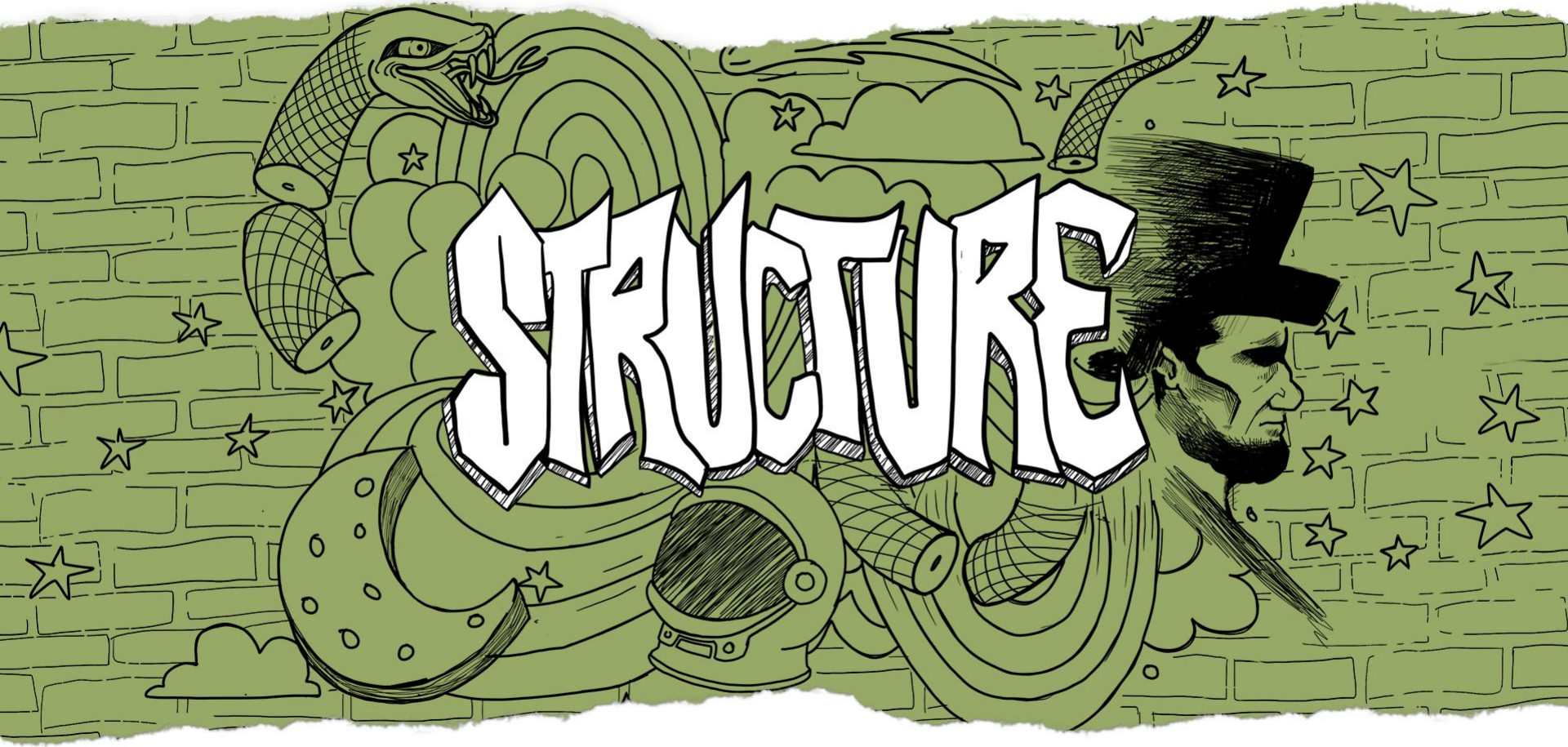
Structure

7.R.2.1: Explain how individual text sections and/or features convey a purpose in texts.

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Benchmark Introduction



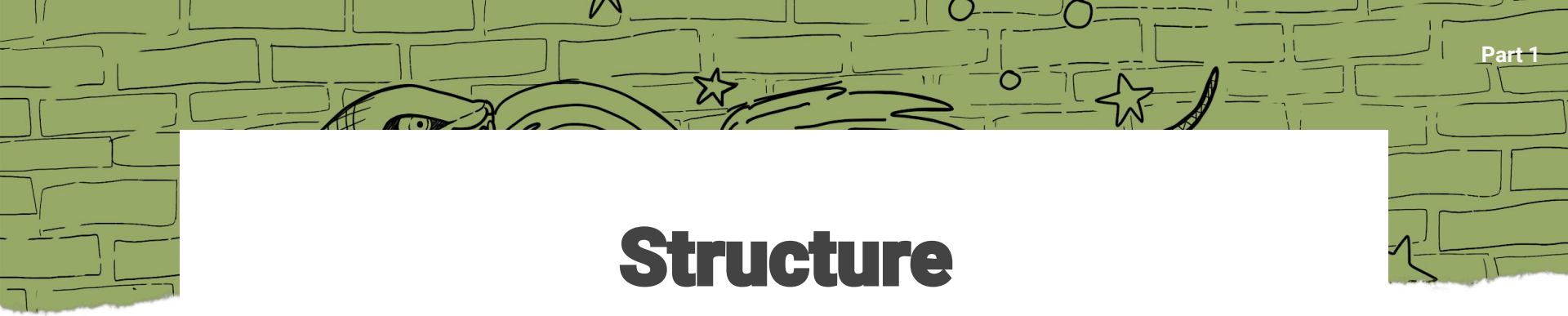
Benchmark:

Explain how text sections and features communicate a purpose in a text.



Definition of Structure

Structure refers to the format of a text, or the way a text is organized into different **text sections**. Chapters and paragraphs are examples of text sections.



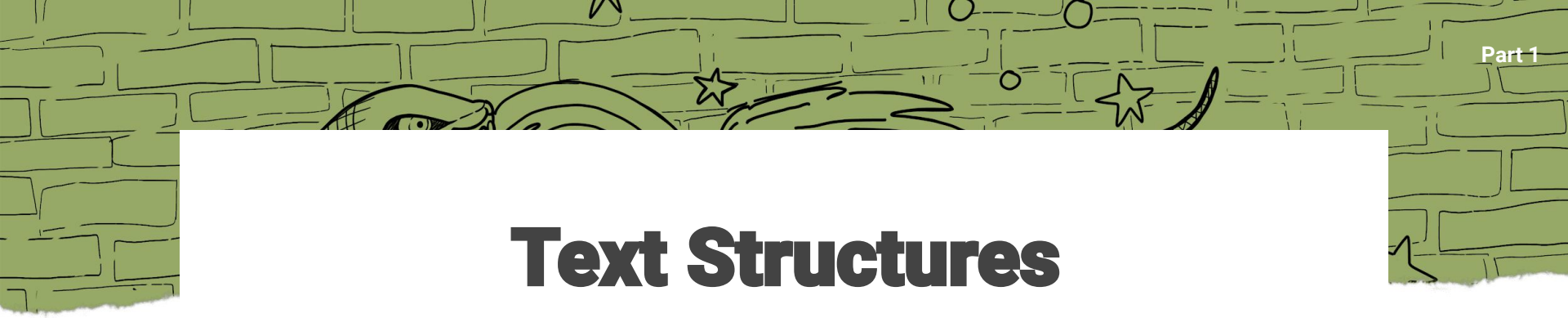
Structure

Writers choose a particular structure to communicate their purpose and develop their ideas.



Definition of Text Structures

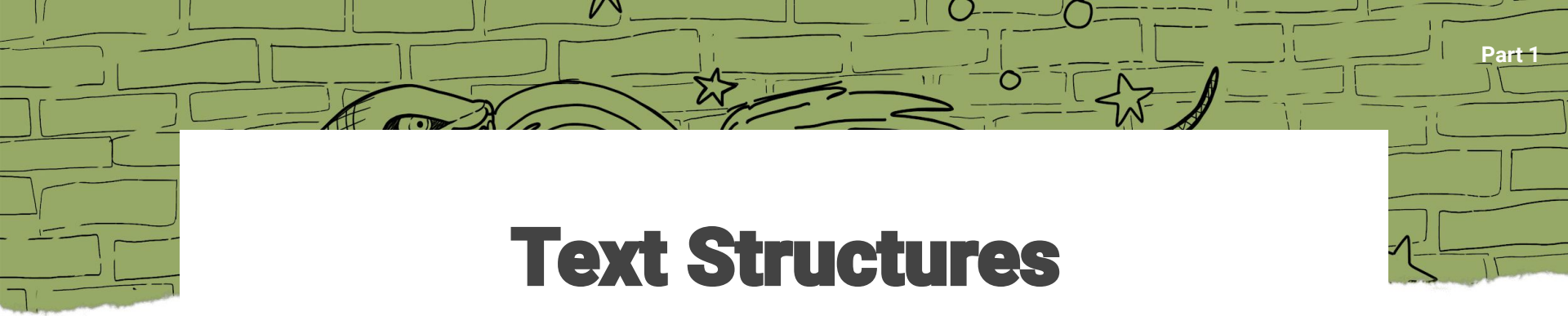
Text structures are the tools that an author uses to organize the information in a text.



Text Structures

Some common text structures are:

- **Description:** Main idea developed with supporting details
- **Problem and Solution:** Define the problem; explain the solution
- **Cause and Effect:** Present an issue or action; describe the result



Text Structures

Some common text structures are:

- **Comparison and Contrast:** Evaluate similarities and differences
- **Sequence:** Present or explain the steps in a process
- **Chronology:** Present events in the order they unfolded



Definition of Text Features

Text features are the components of a text that are not part of the main body of text. Examples of text features include the table of contents, chapter headings, and pictures and captions.



Use of Structure, Text Structures, and Text Features

Texts are usually organized into **sections**, such as chapters and paragraphs. Authors weave the key ideas of the different sections together to convey an overall meaning.



Use of Structure, Text Structures, and Text Features

A text often contains multiple **text structures**. For example, the information in a history book may be organized chronologically overall, but an individual section may use a cause and effect text structure to explain the causes of a war.



Use of Structure, Text Structures, and Text Features

Text features such as pictures and captions, headings, charts, and footnotes offer additional ways to organize information and reinforce the ideas of a particular text section.

Example of the use of structure and text structures

Phineas Gage: A Gruesome but True Story About Brain Science is organized into chapters and paragraphs. Each chapter, or **text section**, focuses on a successive time period to tell the story of Phineas Gage. Author John Fleischman uses a **chronological text structure** to **inform** his readers about the key parts of the brain and how they impact human behaviors.

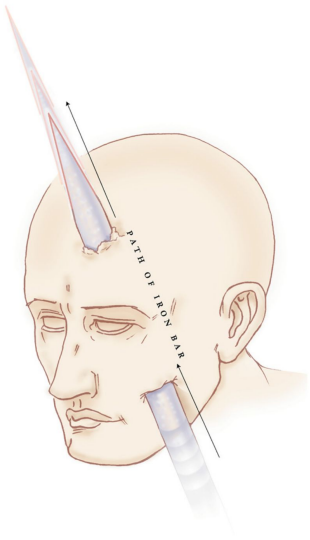
Example of a Text Structure

In Chapter 1 of *Phineas Gage: A Gruesome but True Story About Brain Science,* the author uses a **sequential text structure** in the paragraph that describes Phineas's accident. This text structure helps the reader understand the path the iron rod traveled through Phineas's head.

Example of a Text Structure

“This is what happens. Imagine you are inside Phineas’s head, watching in extreme slow motion: See the pointy end of the rod ***enter*** *under his left cheekbone,* ***pass behind*** *his left eye,* ***through*** *the front of his brain, and* ***out*** *the middle of his forehead just above the hairline. It takes a fraction of a fraction of a second for* ***the iron rod to pass from cheekbone to forehead, through and through.”*** *(paragraph 9)*

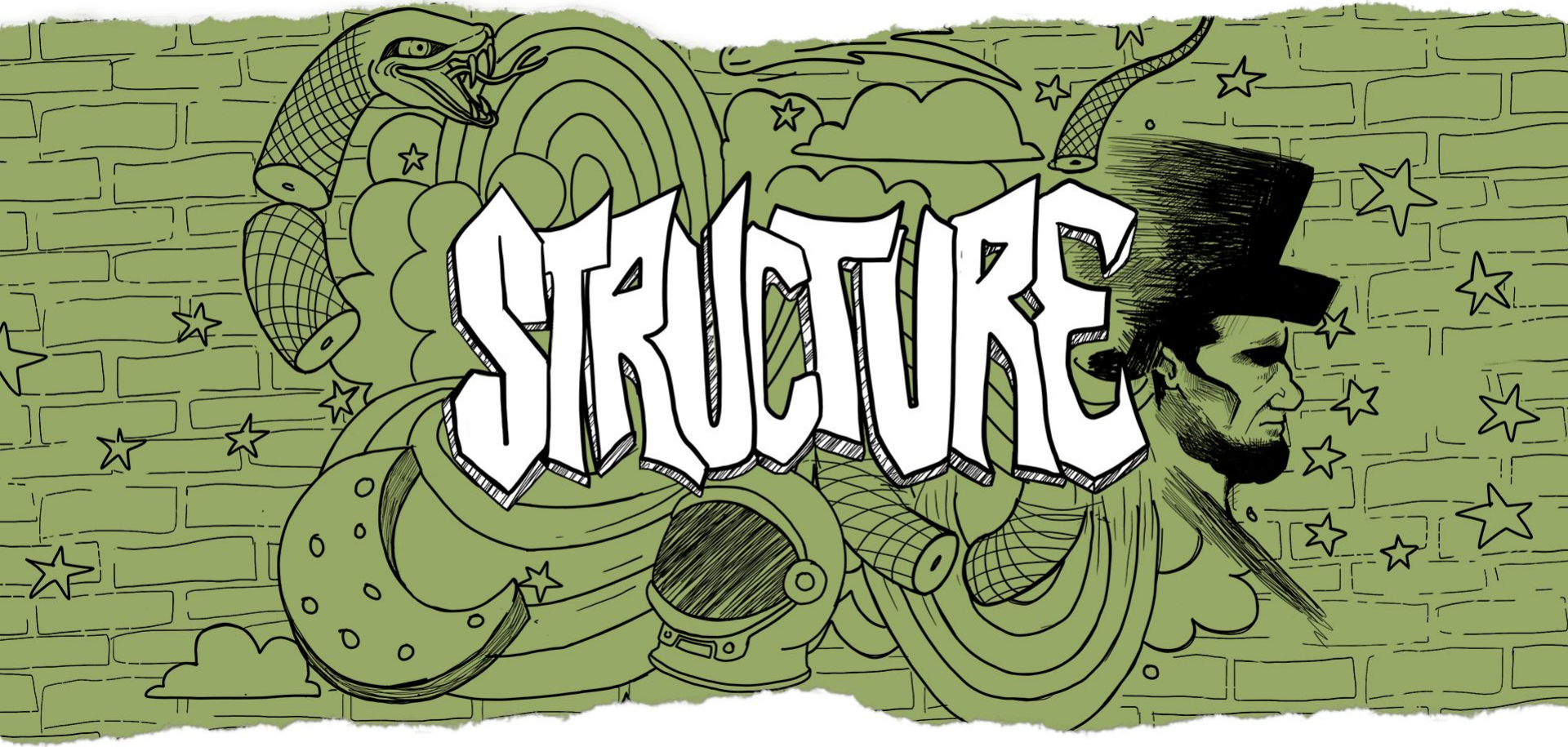
Example of a Text Feature



Lucky or unlucky, the sharp angle of the tamping iron made all the difference to Phineas. It entered just under his left cheekbone, passed behind his left eyeball, and continued on upward through his frontal lobes. It exited his forehead between the two hemispheres of the cortex. The iron's passage left him alive and conscious but forever changed. *Illustration by Jerry Malone*

A **text feature**, in this case an **illustration with a caption**, accompanies the sequential description of Phineas's accident to further **inform** the reader about the injury that Phineas suffered.

Benchmark Skill Routine



How to examine text sections and features

Identify the topic and purpose of the text.

How to examine text sections and features

Analyze the text sections:

- Note how the text is arranged into sections.
- What is the central idea in each text section?

How to examine text sections and features

Ask yourself:

What text structures does the author use to organize and present the information in each text section or across sections?

Common text structures:

- Description
- Problem and solution
- Cause and effect
- Comparison and contrast
- Sequence
- Chronology

How to examine text sections and features

Examine the text features:

- Understand the information conveyed by each text feature.
- How does this information relate to or reinforce the purpose of, and the ideas in, the text?

How to examine text sections and features

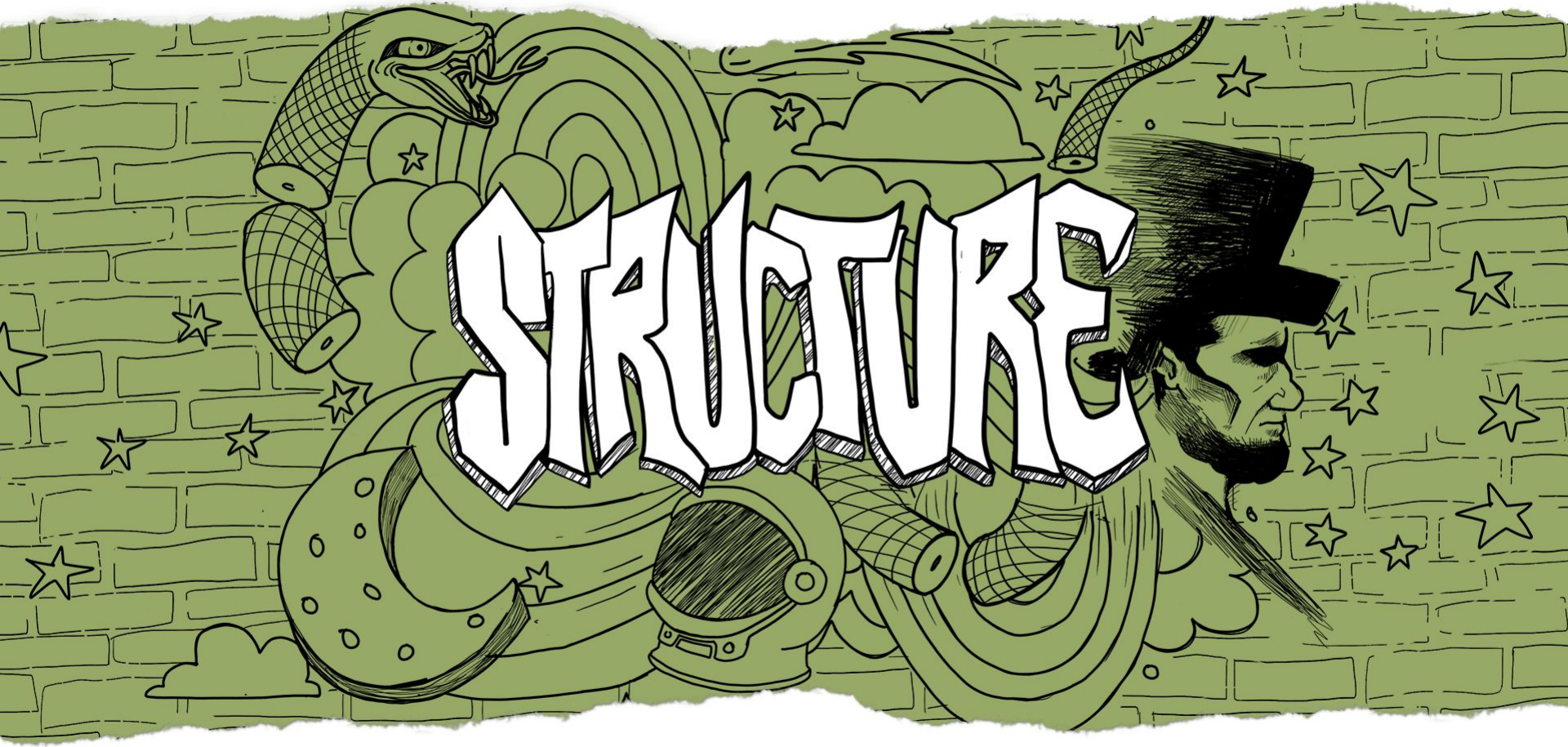
Think about it:

How do the text sections and text features help you understand the purpose of the text and the information and ideas in the text?

Remember

1. Identify the topic and purpose of the text.
2. Note how the text is organized into sections and identify the central idea in each text section.
3. Identify the text structures used to organize and present information and to develop a central idea in each text section or across sections.
4. Consider how key text features relate to the central ideas.
5. How do the text sections and features help you understand the purpose of the text and the information and ideas in the text?

Benchmark in Action: Example of how to examine text sections and features



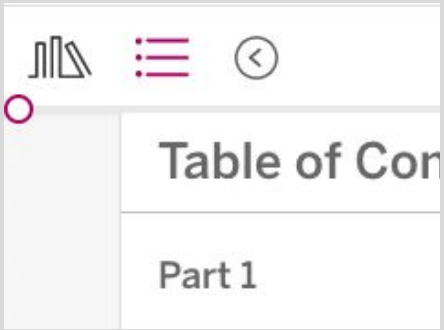
Get ready to read the first passage from *George vs. George: The American Revolution as Seen from Both Sides* by Rosalyn Schanzer.



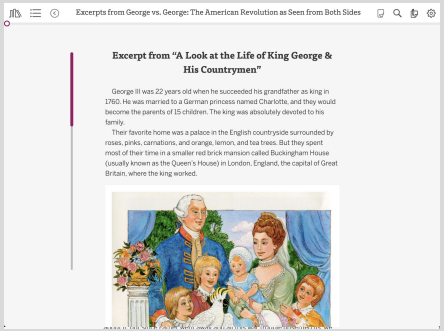
1. Open the Library app.



2. Type “George vs. George” into the search bar. Click on the title of the book to open it.



3. Click on the Table of Contents. Find and go to Excerpt from “A Look at the Life of King George & His Countrymen.”



4. Read paragraphs 1 and 2 and look closely at the illustration of King George and his family.

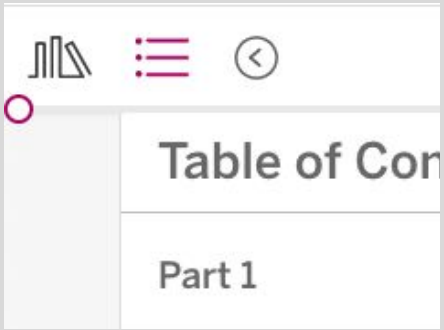
Get ready to read the second passage from *George vs. George: The American Revolution as Seen from Both Sides* by Rosalyn Schanzer.



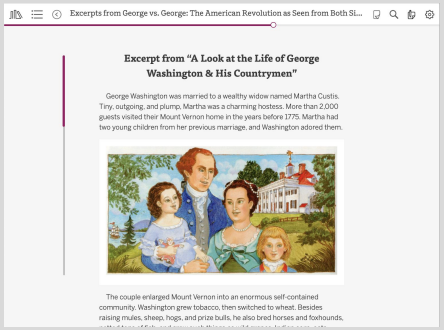
1. Click the Library app again to open the Library in a second tab.



2. Type “George vs. George” into the search bar. Click on the title of the book to open it.



3. Click on the Table of Contents. Find and go to Excerpt from “A Look at the Life of George Washington & His Countrymen.”



4. Read paragraphs 1 and 2 and look closely at the illustration of George Washington and his family.

George vs. George: The American Revolution as Seen from Both Sides

Context for Passages 1 and 2

This book profiles King George III of England and George Washington, the first president of the United States. The author describes the lives of the two leaders in the years before the American Revolution.

Read Excerpt from "A Look at the Life of King George & His Countrymen," paragraphs 1 and 2.

Read Excerpt from "A Look at the Life of George Washington & His Countrymen," paragraphs 1 and 2.

As you read, look for…

- chapters, headings, and paragraphs that show how the text is organized into sections.
- details that help you identify the topic of the text and the central ideas of the text sections.
- text structures that are used to organize and present the information.
- text features that relate to the central ideas.

Practice Step 1

Identify the topic and purpose of the text.

Example:

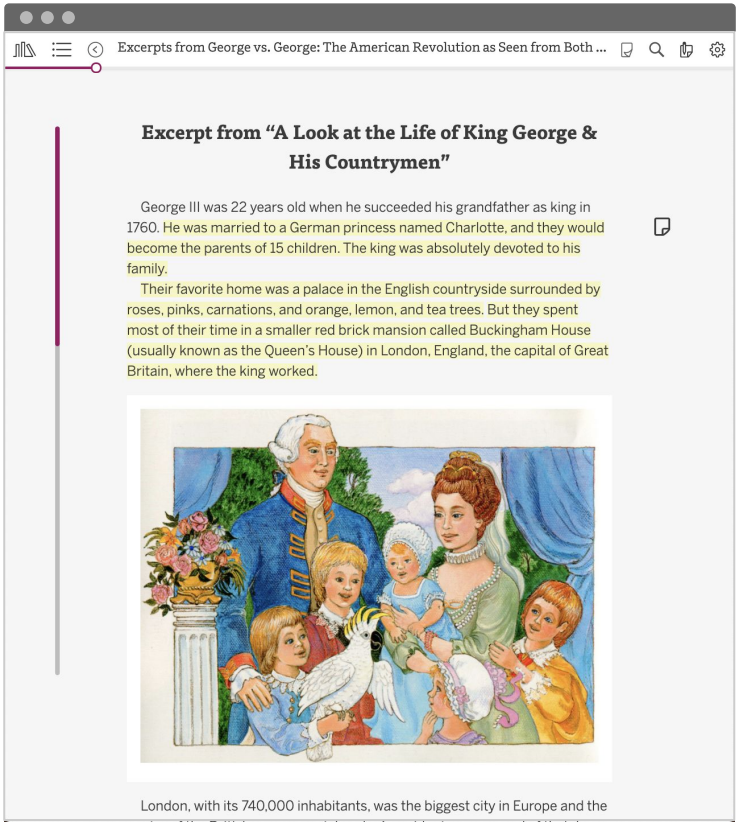
These passages provide information about King George III and George Washington, including details about their families and the places that each man lived.

Practice Step 2

Analyze the text sections:

- Note how the text is arranged into sections.
- What is the central idea in each text section?

Practice Step 2 with Passage 1



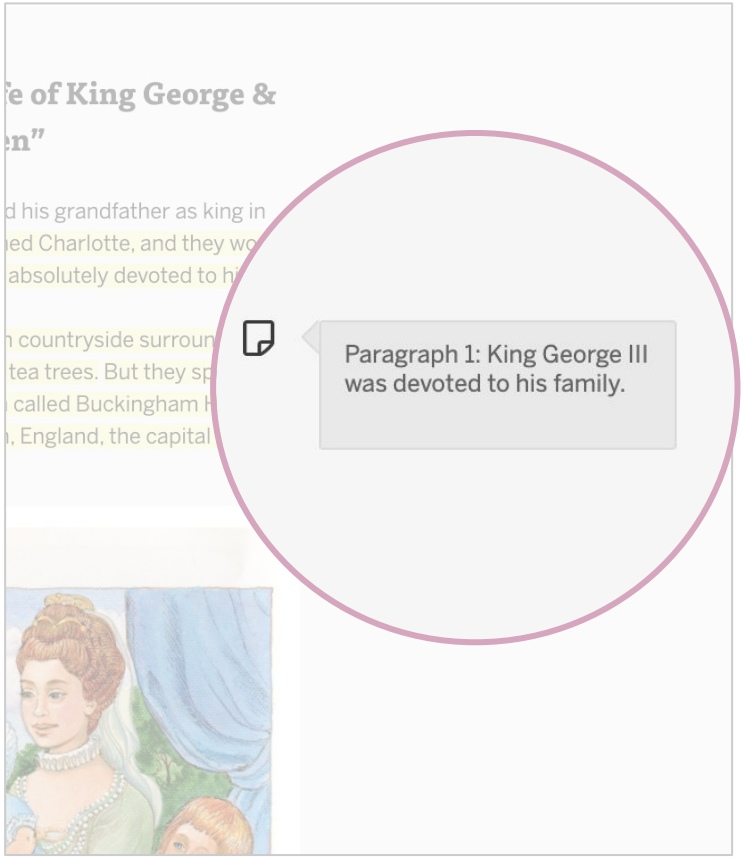
Highlight details to identify the text sections and their central ideas.

"He was married to a German princess named Charlotte, and they would become the parents of 15 children. The king was absolutely devoted to his family."

"Their favorite home was a palace in the English countryside"

"But they spent most of their time in a smaller red brick mansion called Buckingham House…in London, England, the capital of Great Britain, where the king worked."

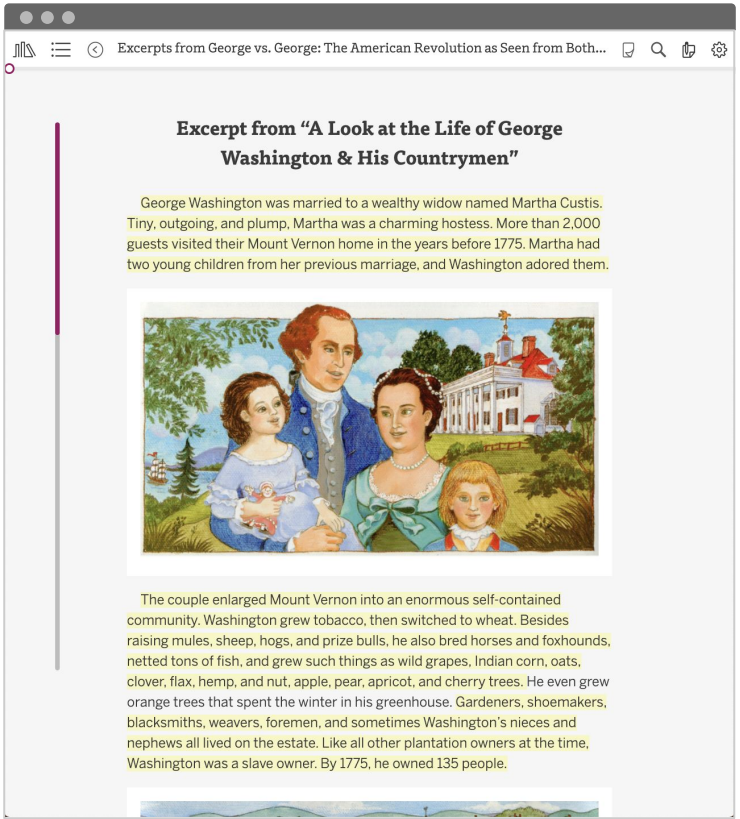
Practice Step 2 with Passage 1



Annotate to identify the text sections and their central ideas.

- Paragraph 1: King George III was devoted to his family.
- Paragraph 2: King George's family liked their palace in the country best, but they mostly lived in London where the king worked.

Practice Step 2 with Passage 2



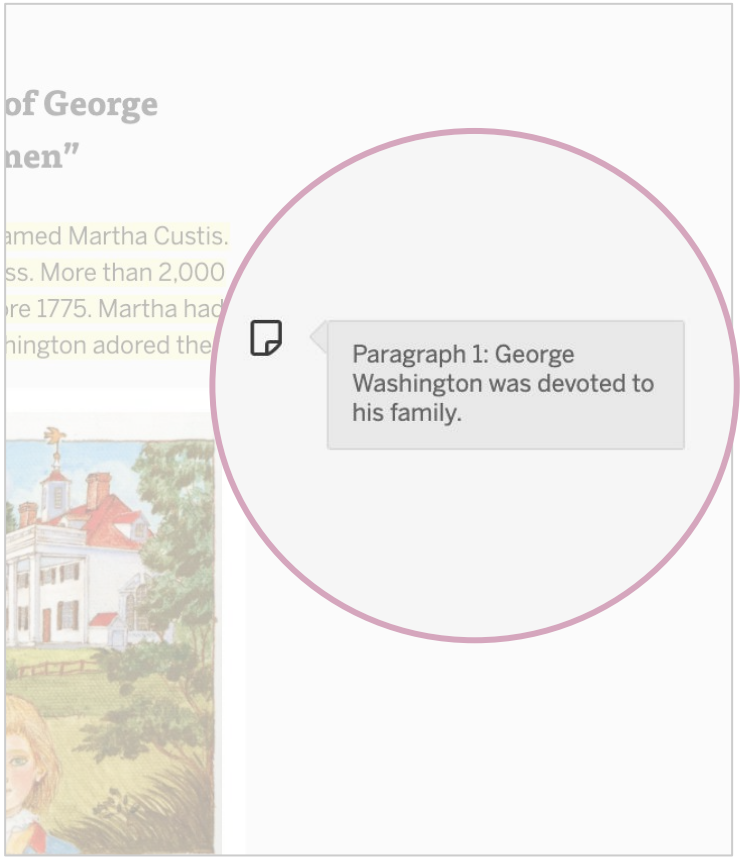
Highlight details to identify the text sections and their central ideas.

"George Washington was married to a wealthy widow named Martha Custis. ...Martha had two young children from her previous marriage, and Washington adored them."

"The couple enlarged Mount Vernon into an enormous self-contained community. Washington grew tobacco, then switched to wheat…."

"Gardeners, shoemakers, blacksmiths, weavers, formen, and sometimes Washington's nieces and nephews all lived on the estate. Like all other plantation owners at the time, Washington was a slave owner."

Practice Step 2 with Passage 2



Annotate to identify the text sections and their central ideas.

- Paragraph 1: George Washington was devoted to his family.
- Paragraph 2: Washington's home was a large farm called Mount Vernon. Washington grew tobacco and wheat, and many other things.
- Paragraph 2: Many people lived at Mount Vernon, but not everyone was free. George Washington was a slaveholder.

Practice Step 3

Ask yourself:

What text structures does the author use to organize and present the information in each text section or across sections?

Common text structures:

- Description
- Problem and solution
- Cause and effect
- Comparison and contrast
- Sequence
- Chronology

Practice Step 3 Examples:

- The overall text structure is compare and contrast; each section about King George III is paired with a section about George Washington.

- Each text section provides a description of either King George III or George Washington, followed by details about each man's family and their homes.

Practice Step 4

Examine the text features:

- Understand the information conveyed by each text feature.
- How does this information relate to or reinforce the ideas of the text?

Practice Step 4 Examples:

The illustrations of the two Georges reinforce the descriptions of the men as devoted to their families.

We also see the kinds of clothes that wealthy people might have dressed in at the time, and we get a glimpse of George Washington's home.

Practice Step 5:

Think about it:

How do the text sections and features help you understand the purpose of the text and the information and ideas in the text?

Practice Step 5 Examples:

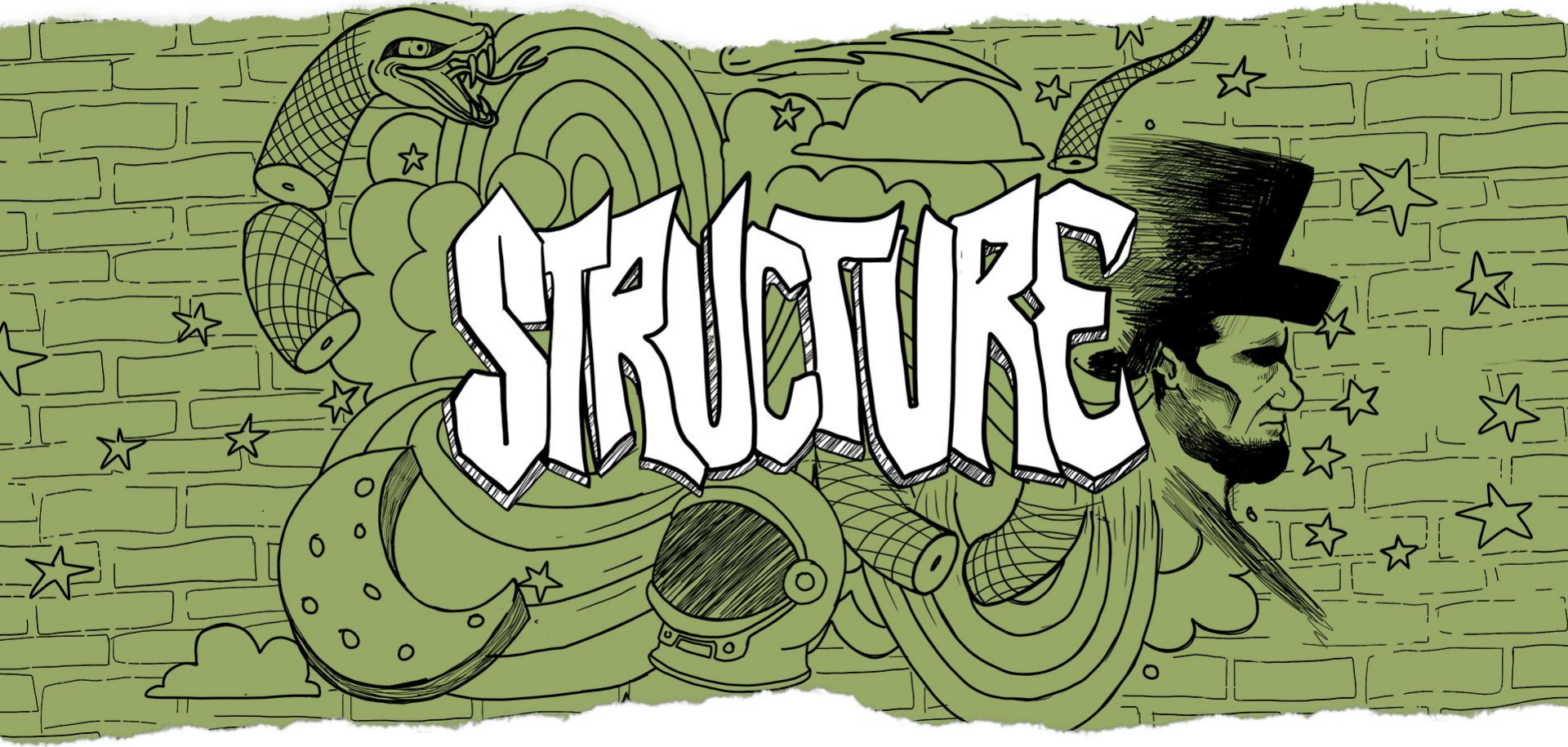
- Each text section presents similar types of information about either King George III or George Washington. This comparison and contrast text structure helps the reader understand the similarities and differences between the lives of the two men.

- The text features (the illustrations) help readers visualize the ways the two Georges and their homes were similar and different.

Remember

1. Identify the topic and purpose of the text.
2. Note how the text is organized into sections and identify the central idea in each text section.
3. Identify the text structures used to organize and present information and to develop a central idea in each text section or across sections.
4. Consider how key text features relate to the central ideas.
5. How do the text sections and features help you understand the purpose of the text and the information and ideas in the text?

Independent Practice

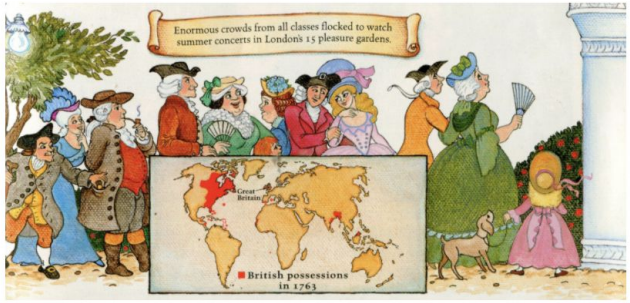


Benchmark:

Explain how text sections and features communicate a purpose in a text.

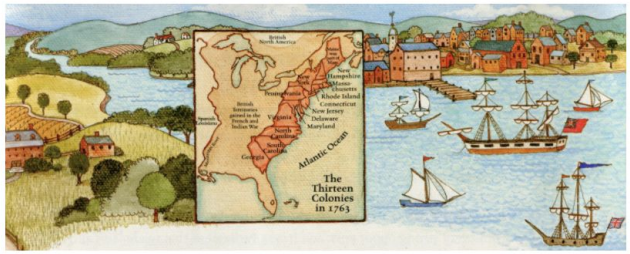
Now read paragraphs 3–5 in Excerpt from “A Look at the Life of King George & His Countrymen.”

public hangings drew rowdy mobs. Thousands of beggars and pickpockets were evidence of poverty run amok.



The English were convinced that the rest of the British Empire was backward and uncivilized. King George ruled 31 colonies and other possessions in many parts of the world, from Borneo to the Bay of Bengal, and all the way to Honduras. Throughout England, people argued constantly about world politics, but they would soon argue especially hard about the uprising over in America.

Now read paragraphs 3–6 in Excerpt from “A Look at the Life of George Washington & His Countrymen.”



About 90 percent of the colonists in America lived out in the country, where new arrivals from Europe were amazed to find farm land, forests, fish, and game as far as the eye could see. So much fertile territory made it possible to supply Great Britain with raw goods, such as furs, flour, iron, tobacco, and lumber in return for manufactured goods, including cloth, shoes, furniture, and tea from Great Britain.

In small but bustling port cities such as Philadelphia, New York, Boston, and Charleston, whaling and shipbuilding were already major industries. And there were lumber mills, flourmills, factories, firehouses, and colleges. Streets—some paved, most full of mud or dust—overflowed with oxcarts, horses and carriages, chimney sweeps, sailors, and carriers of wood. In local taverns, young girls danced lively jigs with their boyfriends.

The most well-off, best educated people were usually planters (like George Washington), merchants, doctors, ministers, or lawyers. Next came a very large middle class that included small farmers, shopkeepers, teachers,

George vs. George: The American Revolution as Seen from Both Sides

Context for Passages 3 and 4

In *George vs. George,* the author focuses on comparing and contrasting information about the lives and politics of King George III and George Washington. In these passages, the author provides details to compare the British and American lifestyles, economies, and politics leading up to the American Revolution.

Practice examining text sections and features

Step 1
Identify the topic and purpose of the text.

Step 2
Note how the text is organized into sections and identify the central idea in each text section.

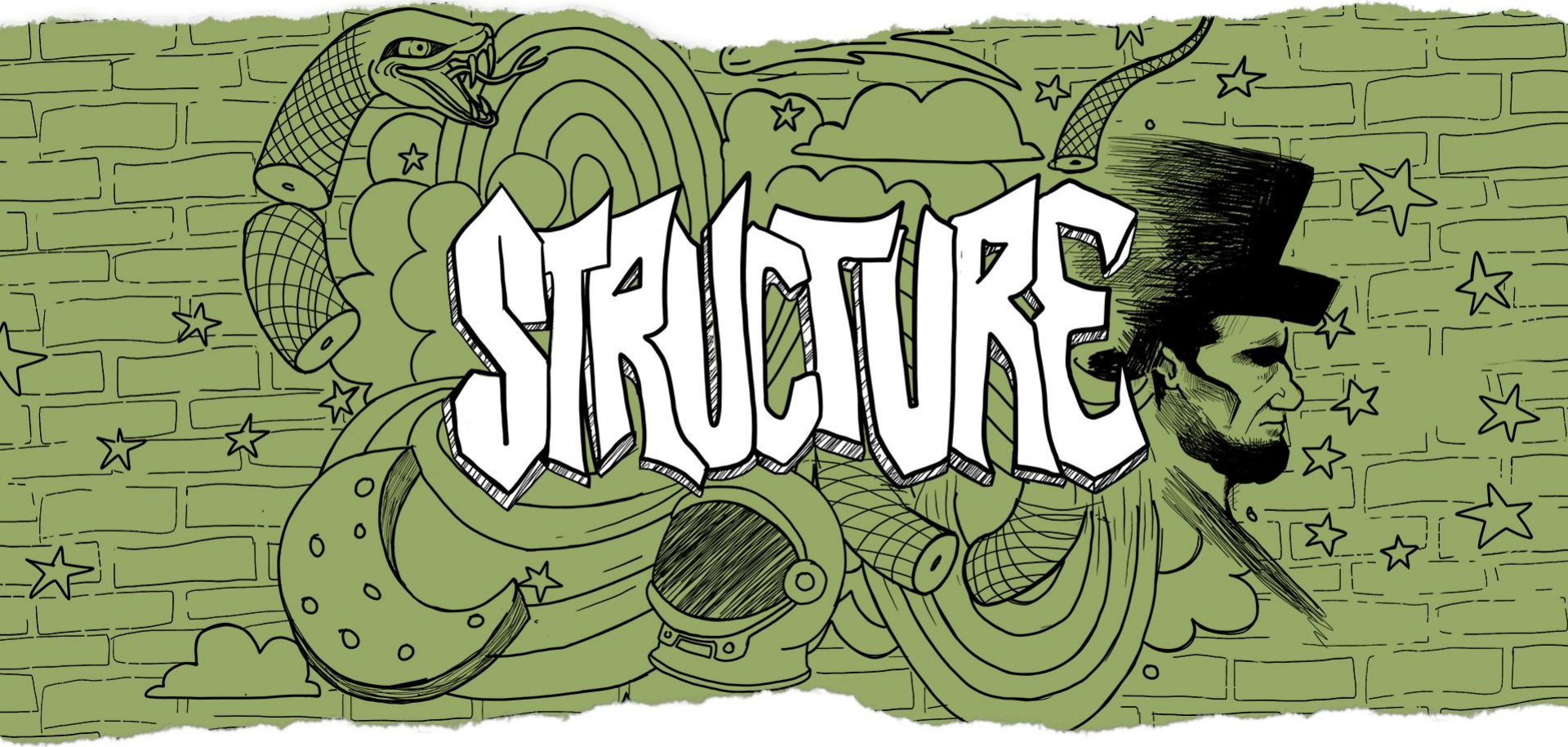
Step 3
Identify the text structures used to organize and present information and to develop a central idea in each text section or across sections.

Practice examining text sections and features

Step 4
Consider how key text features relate to the central ideas.

Step 5
How do the text sections and features help you understand the purpose of the text and the information and ideas in the text?

Check for Understanding



Share and Discuss

1. What is the topic and how is the text organized? What is the central idea in each text section?

Share and Discuss

2. What are the key text structures used to organize and present information? What text features do you notice?

Share and Discuss

3. How do the text sections and features help you understand the purpose of the text and the information and ideas in the text?