Text Features

By Mrs. Cabrera
Why is Understanding Text Features an important reading strategy?

• Text features help us identify and remember the big ideas and topics in our reading.
• Text features support the information the author presents in the text.
What are text features?

• Text Features are parts of a reading passage that stand out from the rest of the information.

• Authors use text features to bring attention to important information.
Some examples:

Some common text features found in books are:

- Table of Contents
- Glossary
- Index
- Underlined, Bold, Italicized, or Highlighted Words
- Headings and Subheadings
- Font (styles and size and color)
- Diagrams, Charts, Tables, Graphs, and Maps
- Pictures or Illustrations
- Sidebars
- Captions
- Bullets or Numbered Lists
- Parenthesis
- Footnotes
How do we use text features to help us understand what we are reading?

• Before reading, preview the kinds of text features throughout the book.
• Think about what the big ideas the author wants you to remember.
• “Read” everything: captions, labels, sidebars, the FINE PRINT--EVERYTHING--to help you understand the information the author has provided.
The Table of Contents makes it easier to locate information in books.

For Example: The Statement of Problem and Solution is found on Page 4.
The Glossary provides us with definitions of words that are found in a particular book. For Example: The definition of Station Port is....
Index

- An **index** is a detailed alphabetical listing of names, places, and topics along with the numbers of the pages on which they are mentioned or discussed.

- An **index** helps the reader find *specific information* quickly.
Underlined, Bold, *Italicized*, or Highlighted Words

- These features are used to draw attention to specific information in the text.
- The author uses them to signal you to notice or remember.
Headings and Subheadings
(titles or subtitles)

- Headings and subheadings are usually found at the top of the page or paragraph.
- They are usually printed in a larger or colored font.
- They sum up the topic or paragraph in a one- or two-word phrase.
Font (STYLE, size, and color)

- Words can be a different STYLES or sizes or color to highlight important or key information.
- Font changes add variety to the page.

Fun Printed Fonts

Old English Text
National Primary
Pavane
Adorable
Harrington
Park Avenue
BUMBLE BEE
Kristen ITC
Morning Limerick
Freehand
Lucinda Handwriting

Angelina
PHARMACY
Calligraph421 BT
Pristina
Lucinda Calligraphy
Cheddar Salad
Andy
Safrole
Black Jack
International P
Malihini Cuban
Diagrams, charts, graphs, tables, maps

• These visuals help explain or demonstrate the author’s ideas.
Sidebars (or textbox)

- Sidebars are boxed information on the side of the page.
- They usually include a border or colored background.
- They may include text or illustrations that add to the information in the main text.
Pictures and illustrations provide support for the written text and add visual appeal to the page.
Captions

- Captions are sentences that describe an illustration or photograph.
- Captions usually appear *underneath* the picture, but sometimes they are above or to the side.

Caption

*Burma-Shave* popularized canned *shaving cream* with the first billboard campaign employing a roadside sequence of signs telling a joke or rhyme.
Bullets or Numbered Lists

- Bullets or numbered lists help call attention to main points, details, or examples the author wants you to notice or know.

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- Parenthesis
Whenever you see a parenthesis ( ) – it says to the reader, STOP, I’m important, notice me.

Parenthesis are often put around items that are used to clarify the information that comes before.

For Example:

- **Parenthesis** (pə-renˈθi-səs)

  (Here it is used to clarify the pronunciation of the word - parenthesis)

  An interruption of continuity; an interval: "This is one of the things I wasn't prepared for—the amount of unfilled time, the long parentheses of nothing" *(Margaret Atwood).*

  *(Here it is to clarify who’s quote this is)*
Here are 3 footnotes commenting on this article

1. David Young, in his chapter on “Byzantium,” also emphasizes that Yeats reads the poem as a working out of the artist’s desire for immortality. He argues that “Sooner or later readers must consider that this poem is about the relation between artist and work of art. The later can be perfect and changeless, while the former is subject to decay and mortality.” (Young, David, in *Troubled Mirror: A Study of Yeats’s The Tower* (Iowa: University of Iowa Press, 1987), 17.)


Timeline

• A timeline is a sequence of related events arranged in chronological order and displayed along a line.
• Using a timeline will help students to connect the events of history and see the “big picture”.

Events in the Life of Benjamin Franklin