

TEXT STRUCTURE



in literature

Analyzing Text Structure

Text Structure in Stories
In stories, structure includes the **plot**, or series of events; an introduction to the problem, or conflict, and how the conflict is resolved. The author also includes a **setting**—the time and place the story takes place—and the characters. Lastly, the author thinks about how these elements work together to develop the story's theme.

Text Structure in Poetry
In order to find the most meaning in a piece of poetry, it's important to understand the poem's structure, or organization. In poetry, structure can mean how the lines or ideas of a poem are organized, keeping in mind the poem's lines and stanzas. Putting the ideas in each line together will help you create the poem's **theme**, or message.

Read the poem below, paying close attention to its meaning and structure.

The poem is organized into four stanzas of six lines each. Think about what each stanza means, completing the chart.

Stanza	Main Idea
1	The narrator wanders around lonely, without any purpose.
2	The narrator sees an uncountable number of dancing daffodils.
3	The sparkling waves in the bay do not compare to the daffodils.
4	The narrator's mind wanders to that of the dancing daffodils.

Each line in the poem contributes to the overall theme of the poem. When put together, the ideas in the chart tell us the theme of *I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud*. Thanks to the beauty of a field of daffodils that the poet comes across, they are able to leave their feelings of loneliness and sadness behind.

Poetry Text Structure

An Honest Mistake

Locked inside my bedroom
I don't know what to think
All that's going through my mind
Is "wow, this really stinks!"

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____

It all happened so fast
We were all laughing
slippery
and my despair

100L Text Structure

On the Loose

"Eeep!" I squeaked as he launched himself at me, knocking me backward into the grass. The dog, too big for my lap, climbed into it anyway and popped down with a whine. He whimpered again, and I gave him a scratch behind the ear before searching his neck for his tag. I found a plain black collar but no tag. The dog whined, staring at me with chocolate eyes. Rising, he switched himself around in my lap, pressing his heavy head against mine. In addition to being lost, this pup was scared.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

"I'm Lizzy," I told the dog. "How about I call you Mango until we find someone, Pumpkin?" Dad told me, "I know... he smells like mint and just had a bath, plus, he has fleas. I keep him."

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just came out of me,
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art dinner, I shocked

920L Text Structure

Beach Doom

We'd just gotten to the beach when my flip flop decided to flip right off ahead before we would be returning to our resort. Of course, I didn't have another pair of shoes with me.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

"It'll be okay, Sport." Dad said, which marked the fifth time he'd uttered those words since I'd first opened my eyes that morning. I stared down at my broken footwear, and then at the hot sand. The drive here had taken a million years, and waiting for my little sister, Alice, to wake up and get it together this morning had taken at least a million more. Three hours later than planned, we'd finally made it to the beach. It was already noon, which meant that the best spots, those close to the water but not too close, had already been snatched up by other tourists.

"How about here?" Mom asked when she stopped in a spot that might as well have been a thousand miles from the water.

"Terrible," I said, "but everywhere else is taken."

I growled and stomped off after Alice, who flounced carefree through the sunbathing crowd like a fairy in a field of flowers. I hustled to keep up, muttering "ow" to myself with every other step because the sun-soaked sand burned hot as lava.

"Ow, ow, ouch, ow," I grumbled through gritted teeth, stepping gingerly through the sand, watching my feet to make sure they didn't melt completely. Suddenly, as the crash of the surf got loud and my poor-soled shoes became wet and cold under my poor-soled feet, Alice stopped. I came to a halt beside her and scanned the blue horizon.

"Sharks," said Alice, blinking wide as I perused the water for any sign of a shark fin. But none were to be seen. No swimmers were in the ocean, either.

"Where?" I asked, blinking wide as I perused the water for any sign of a shark fin. But none were to be seen. No swimmers were in the ocean, either.

Alice pointed to a nearby caution sign, and I quickly read the message:

**WARNING
SHARK SIGHTED
NO SWIMMING ALLOWED**



Analyzing Text Structure

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In stories, structure includes the **plot**, or series of events; an introduction to the problem, or conflict, and how the conflict is resolved. The author also includes a **setting**—the time and place the story takes place—and the characters. Lastly, the author thinks about how these elements work together to develop the story's theme.

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Read the poem below, paying close attention to its meaning and structure.

I wandered lonely as a cloud
That floats on high o'er vales and hills,
When all at once I saw a crowd,
A host, of golden daffodils;
Beside the lake, beneath the trees,
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.

Continuous as the stars that shine
And twinkle on the milky way,
They stretched in never-ending line
Along the margin of a bay:
Ten thousand saw I at a glance,
Tossing their heads in sprightly dance.

The waves beside them danced; but they
Out-did the sparkling waves in glee:
A poet could not but be gay,
In such a jocund company:
I gazed—and gazed—but little thought
What wealth the show to me had brought:

For oft, when on my couch I lie
In vacant or in pensive mood,
They flash upon that inward eye
Which is the bliss of solitude,
And then my heart with pleasure fills,
And dances with the daffodils.

By William Wordsworth

The poem is organized into four stanzas of six lines each. Think about what each stanza means, completing the chart.

Stanza	Main Idea
1	The narrator wanders around lonely, without any purpose.
2	The narrator sees an uncountable number of dancing daffodils.
3	The sparkling waves in the bay do not compare to the daffodils
4	The narrator's mind wanders to that of the dancing daffodils

Each line in the poem contributes to the overall theme of the poem. When put together, the ideas in the chart tell us the theme of *I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud*. Thanks to the beauty of a field of daffodils that the poet comes across, they are able to leave their feelings of loneliness and sadness behind.

Analyzing Text Structure

Text Structure in Stories

... includes the **plot**, or series of events; an introduction to the problem, or the conflict is resolved. The author also includes a **setting**—the time and place and the characters. Lastly, the author thinks about how these elements develop the story's theme.

Text Structure in Poetry

The most meaning in a piece of poetry, it's important to understand the poem's organization. In poetry, structure can mean how the lines or ideas of a poem are arranged. The poet organizes the poem's lines and stanzas. Putting the ideas in each line together helps to understand the poem's **theme**, or message.

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Poetry

Text Structure

Name: _____

Date: _____

An Honest Mistake

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I don't know what to think
All that's going through my mind
Is "wow, this really stinks"

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.

It all happened so fast
We were all slipping
And my friend's despair

100L

Text Structure

Name: _____

Date: _____

On the Loose

"Eeep," I squeaked as he launched himself at me, knocking me backward into the grass. The dog, too big for my lap, climbed into it anyway and plopped down with a whine. He whimpered again, and I gave him a scratch behind the ear before searching his neck for his tag. I found a plain black collar but no tags. The dog whined, staring at me with chocolate eyes. Rising, he switched himself around in my lap, pressing his heavy head against mine. In addition to being lost, this pup was scared.

"I'm Lizzy," I told the dog. "How about I call you Mango until we find out who you really are?"

"I know... he smells like mint and just had a bath, or fleas, I keep him on my mats in his coat, or fleas, his lips and thought for need to call the local up flyers in the area. I claim him, then

920L

Text Structure

Name: _____

Date: _____

Beach Doom

We'd just gotten to the beach when my flip flop decided to flip right off my foot before flopping straight into the sand.

"Augh," I shouted at the shoe, thinking about the long day that lay ahead before we would be returning to our resort. Of course, I didn't have another pair of shoes with me.

"It'll be okay. Sport," Dad said, which marked the fifth time he'd uttered those words since I'd first opened my eyes that morning.

I stared down at my broken footwear, and then at the hot sand. The drive here had taken a million years, and waiting for a little sister, Alice, to wake up and get it together this morning had taken at least a million more. Three hours later than planned, we'd finally made it to the beach. It was already noon, which meant that the best spots, those close to the water but not too close, had already been snatched up by other tourists.

"How about here," Mom asked when she stopped in a spot that might as well have been a thousand miles from the water.

"Terrible," I said, "but everywhere else is taken."

I growled and stomped off after Alice, who flounced carefree through the sunbathing crowd like a fairy in a field of flowers. I hustled to keep up, muttering "ow" to myself with every other step because the sun-soaked sand burned hot as lava.

"Ow, ow, ouch, ow," I grumbled through gritted teeth, stepping gingerly through the sand, watching my feet to make sure they didn't melt completely. Suddenly, as the crash of the surf got loud and the sand became wet and cool under my poor scalded soles, Alice stopped the blue horizon.

"Sharks," said Alice, blinking wide as I perused the water for any sign of her and scanned the blue horizon.

"Where?" I asked, blinking wide as I perused the water for any sign of dorsal fins. But none were to be seen. No swimmers were in the ocean, either.

Alice pointed to a nearby caution sign, and I quickly read the message.



WARNING SHARK SIGHTED NO SWIMMING ALLOWED



Text Structure

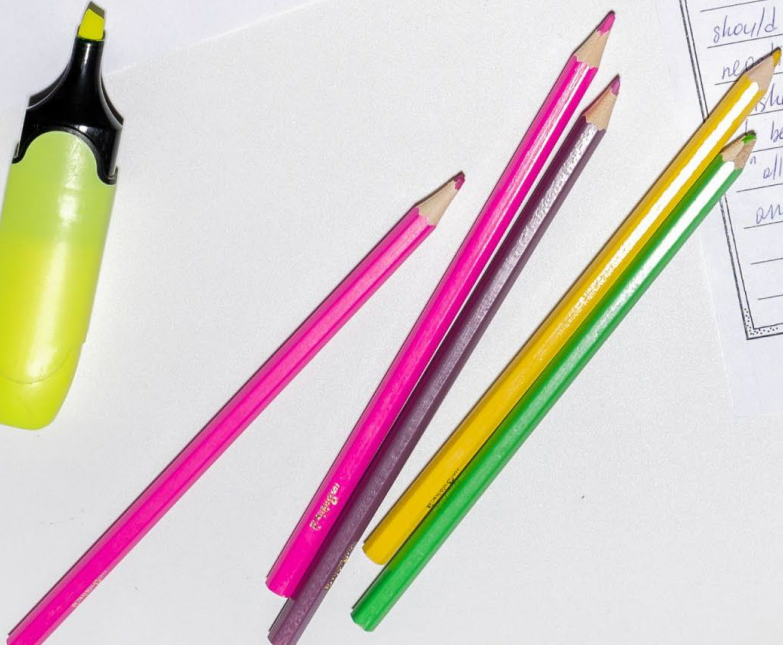
Name: _____ Date: _____

Beach Doom

1. We'd just gotten to the beach when my flip flop decided to flip right off my foot before flopping straight into the sand.
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5. "How about here," Mom asked when she stopped in a spot that might as well have been a thousand miles from the water.



**WARNING
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NO SWIMMING ALLOWED**



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Text Structure

4. How does...

Text Structure

Answer the following questions. Underline the text evidence in color indicated.

1. At the beginning of the story, the main character's flip flops. How does this episode contribute to the story?
 - a. It establishes the conflict between Alice and Rodney.
 - b. It introduces a series of unfortunate events in the story.
 - c. It creates mystery around whether Rodney will go to the beach.
 - d. It shows that Alice is set out to make Rodney's day miserable.
2. How does paragraph 4 develop the setting of the story?
 - a. It helps the reader understand that Rodney is on vacation with his family.
 - b. It illustrates the nearby sharks and mini-golf.
 - c. It reveals how unbearably rainy the weather is that morning.
 - d. It explains what time of year the story takes place.
3. How does the final paragraph contribute to the story? Provide details from the story to support your answer.

The final paragraph makes the story's theme clear. It shows that Alice should have found the positives in the day, rather than focusing on her negatives. When Alice suggested they build a sandcastle, Rodney pushed her off, rather than focusing on her idea. He should be creative. At the end of the story, Rodney said, "I've been all along, I could have just shrugged and looked for something greater."

Text Structure

4. Read the sentence below. **Something I said may squeeze with an un-**

- a. It shows how understand
- b. It causes t
- c. It reinfo
- d. It introd

5. How do the details from

Lizzy / his / is a / fun

3. Look at the response paragraph necessary to

This paragraph: That Lizzy John would help to having him and that owner, sh

26. away

27. a good said, s come, c some, it

26. watched together tail swist went also

time, Luc friend, an friend doe best of all that you we matter y

Text Structure

Answer the following color indicated.

1. Which of the followin

- a. "When Dad ask near where Ma
- b. "That afternoo
- c. "Being someon
- d. "As soon as I u ears perked."

2. Which statement bes

- a. It introduces th owner.
- b. It illustrates th
- c. It provides det
- d. It explains how

1. 2. 3. 4.

5. 6. 7. 8.

9. 10. 11. 12.

13. 14. 15. 16.

17. 18. 19. 20.

21. 22. 23. 24.

25. 26. 27. 28.

29. 30. 31. 32.

33. 34. 35. 36.

37. 38. 39. 40.

41. 42. 43. 44.

45. 46. 47. 48.

49. 50. 51. 52.

53. 54. 55. 56.

1000L

Text Structure

Name

1000L

Text Structure

Name

On the Loose



1. "Eep," I squeaked as he launched himself at me, knocking backward into the grass. The dog, too big for my lap, plopped down with a whine. He whimpered again, and I gave him a scratch behind the ear before searching his neck for his tag. I found a plain black collar with a tag. The dog whined, staring at me with chocolate eyes. I found myself around in my lap, pressing his heavy head against mine. In addition, being lost, this pup was scared.

2. "I'm Lizzy," I told the dog. "How about I call you Mango until we find out who you really are? You can come home with me until then."

3. "I'm pretty sure he belongs to someone, Pumpkin," Dad told me, rubbing Mango's snout.

4. "I know... he smells like mint oranges like he just had a bath. Plus, he doesn't have any mats in his coat, or fleas, but if he doesn't, could I keep him?"

5. Dad pursed his lips and thought for a long time. "First you need to call the local shelters to find out if anyone is looking for him. Then you have to hang up flyers in the neighborhood, and if no one claims him, then maybe," he said.

6. Walking to the bus stop the next morning, fliers in hand, I quickly rejected different utility poles and trees. I passed our neighborhood coffee shop, as none of those places struck me as great spots for my posters, and before I could decide on a single spot to hang up a poster, I had arrived at my morning, fliers in hand. I quickly rejected different utility poles and trees. I passed our neighborhood coffee shop, as none of those places struck me as great spots for my posters, and before I could decide on a single spot to hang up a poster, I had arrived at my

7. I assured myself I would hang up posters on the way home; again, I failed to hang up posters on the way to the bus stop or on the way home. I wanted to hang the flyers up, but Mom got home, she immediately asked, "Did you call the shelters?"

8. "I'm going to... tonight," I promised her. Instead, I turned on the TV, and Mango and I watched a movie together. Before falling asleep, I told him all about with an uncomfortable tightness.

9. The next day unfolded the same way; again, I failed to hang up posters on the way to the bus stop or on the way home. I wanted to hang the flyers up, but at the same time, I didn't.

10. "Did you call the shelters today?" Mom asked me when she got home, startling me the same moment it left my lips, and I silently scolded myself for lying to Mom. But as Mom nodded and headed into the kitchen to start dinner, I shocked myself further by not stopping her to take the lie back.



Poetry

Text Structure

Name: _____

Date: _____

An Honest Mistake

1. Look inside my bedroom.
2. I don't know what to think
3. about that's going through my mind
4. It is "wow, this really stinks"

5. It all happened so quickly
6. We were just playing, I swear
7. It's just that my brother got really slippery
8. And fell out of my arms, to everyone's despair

9. We were spinning around and around
10. Making all the party guests laugh
11. Until Anthony tumbled to the ground
12. My parents didn't find much entertainment in that

13. Of course he burst out crying
14. I stood there, embarrassed, sensing my impending doom
15. I didn't do it on purpose--I'm not lying
16. But Mom and Dad still sent me to my room

17. It doesn't feel quite fair
18. To be punished for an honest mistake
19. To purposely hurt my brother, I wouldn't dare
20. Regardless of my opinion, I'll be missing the birthday cake



Questions. Underline the text evidence in the

the final stanza?

is their opinion with frustration.
 describes how they would change past events.
 as their excitement for the birthday party.
 is about next year's party.

best describes the poem's organization?

stanzas that do not rhyme
 with every other end word rhyming
 stanzas and all end words rhyming
 with a consistent rhyme scheme

What is the main theme of the poem. Provide at least one piece of text that develops its theme.

room is misunderstanding and
 playing with and swinging his
 all of their guests, when Anthony
 I tell. Although he was sorry, and
 e, his parents still decided to
 o him to his room.

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TEXT STRUCTURE

6th grade

Table of Contents

*This product includes 12 Lexile[®] leveled stories in the 6th Grade Common Core Text Complexity Band (the range for 6th grade is 925L-1185L).

1. Analyzing Text Structure Journal Page/Anchor Chart
2. Beach Doom - 920L
3. Cake Wars - 930L
4. Baby Tortoise - Poetry
5. Tumbling Down - 930L
6. On the Loose - 1000L
7. Not So Amusing - 1080L
8. Poor Pat - 1090L
9. An Honest Mistake - Poetry
10. Exit for Mobile - Poetry
11. Into the Abyss - 1160L
12. Test
 - Brown Penny - Poetry
 - Mimi's Makeup - 1140L



ABOUT LEXILE LEVELS



MagiCore Learning, LLC is a certified Lexile® Partner. These texts are officially measured and approved by Lexile and MetaMetrics® to ensure appropriate rigor and differentiation for students.

The Lexile Framework® for Reading measures are scientific, quantitative text levels. When the Lexile of a text is measured, specific, measurable attributes of the text are considered, including, but not limited to, word frequency, sentence length, and text cohesion. These are difficult attributes for humans to evaluate, so a computer measures them.

Common Core State Standards uses Lexile level bands as one measure of text complexity. Text complexity ranges ensure that students are college and career ready by the end of 12th grade. Lexile measures help educators scaffold and differentiate instruction, as well as monitor reading growth.

Grade Band	Lexile® Bands Aligned to Common Core Expectations
K-1	N/A
2-3	420L-820L
4-5	740L-1010L
6-8	925L-1185L

Keep in mind when using any leveled text that many students will need scaffolding and support to reach text at the high end of their grade band. According to Appendix A of the Common Core Standards, "It is important to recognize that scaffolding often is entirely appropriate. The expectation that scaffolding will occur with particularly challenging texts is built into the Standards' grade-by-grade text complexity expectations, for example. The general movement, however, should be toward decreasing scaffolding and increasing independence both within and across the text complexity bands defined in the Standards."



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They stretched in never-ending line
Along the margin of a bay:
Ten thousand saw I at a glance,
Tossing their heads in sprightly dance.

The waves beside them danced; but they
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A poet could not but be gay,
In such a jocund company:
I gazed—and gazed—but little thought
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By William Wordsworth

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Beach Doom

1. We'd just gotten to the beach when my flip flop decided to flip right off my foot before flopping straight into the sand.
2. "Augh," I shouted at the shoe, thinking about the long day that lay ahead before we would be returning to our resort. Of course, I didn't have another pair of shoes with me.
3. "It'll be okay, Sport," Dad said, which marked the fifth time he'd uttered those words since I'd first opened my eyes that morning.
4. I stared down at my broken footwear, and then at the hot sand. The drive here had taken a million years, and waiting for my little sister, Alice, to wake up and get it together this morning had taken at least a million more. Three hours later than planned, we'd finally made it to the beach. It was already noon, which meant that the best spots, those close to the water but not *too* close, had already been snatched up by other tourists.
5. "How about here," Mom asked when she stopped in a spot that might as well have been a thousand miles from the water.
6. "Terrible," I said, "but everywhere else is taken."
7. I growled and stomped off after Alice, who flounced carefree through the sunbathing crowd like a fairy in a field of flowers. I hustled to keep up, muttering "ow" to myself with every other step because the sun-soaked sand burned hot as lava.
8. "Ow, ow, ouch, ow," I grumbled through gritted teeth, stepping gingerly through the sand, watching my feet to make sure they didn't melt completely. Suddenly, as the crash of the surf got loud and the sand became wet and cool under my poor scalded soles, Alice stopped. I came to a halt beside her and scanned the blue horizon.
9. "Sharks," said Alice, turning to me with a shrug.
10. "Where?" I asked, blinking wide as I perused the water for any sign of dorsal fins. But none were to be seen. No swimmers were in the ocean, either.
11. Alice pointed to a nearby caution sign, and I quickly read the message:



**WARNING
SHARK SIGHTED
NO SWIMMING ALLOWED**

- 12.** "You've got to be kidding me!" I shouted, throwing my arms up.
- 13.** My shoulders slumped, and I let loose with an exasperated sigh. Was this how the rest of our vacation was going to go? Would I miss out on swimming this whole week because of some dumb sharks?
- 14.** "Come on," said Alice as she tugged on my arm, "let's build one of your forts."
- 15.** I let her run ahead of me again. Dejected, I turned and trudged painfully back through the wasteland of pasty bellies, coolers, beach umbrellas, and terrible tan lines to where Dad and Mom rested in their fold-out chairs.
- 16.** "I hate sharks," I snarled.
- 17.** "It'll be okay, Sport," said Dad.
- 18.** Scowling, I fell into the innertube, which let out a loud pop and began to deflate quickly with a flatulating sound. I didn't bother getting up--I didn't bother doing anything. I just laid there, waiting for the innertube to go flat and abandon me to the burning sand just as my shoe had.
- 19.** It was finally time for dinner, and it was Alice's turn to pick the place, and of course, she chose seafood, which I detest.
- 20.** "Can't we go somewhere else?" I asked.
- 21.** "It'll be okay, Sport," said Dad. "You can pick tomorrow."
- 22.** We finally arrived at Lobster House where-- surprise!--there would be a fifty-minute wait. Unphased by this news, Mom and Alice pulled out a game of tic tac toe. Dad stepped outside to call Grandpa, who was housesitting for us. Meanwhile, I sat there in the noisy, over-crowded waiting area, squished between a loud laughing lady and my little sister who kept knocking me with her elbow.
- 23.** An hour later, we finally settled into our chairs, each of us opening our menus. I blanched, shuddered, and scanned all the way to the bottom of the menu where, to my shock, I spotted something that I would never have expected to find on a menu at a place like this. Against all the odds, and despite the dismal day I'd had, this restaurant, maybe one of the most sea-foody places I'd ever been, had, of all things, the most delectable dish known to man--lasagna.
- 24.** The description blazed up at me, glittering sunbeams of pure hope highlighting the Godsend. For the first time that day, things were about to get better. Actually, they weren't just going to get better. Instead, they were finally going to get good. My eyes stinging with tears of joy, I put in my order with the waitress. I buzzed in my seat, elated for the first time.
- 25.** But not even half a minute later, a shadow fell over me. Trepidation clutched my stomach. Then, the dreaded figure, our waitress, spoke.
- 26.** "Okay, who ordered the lasagna?"
- 27.** I looked up at her, pleading with her in my mind. *Don't say it, don't say it...*
- 28.** "Looks like we just ran out."

- 29.** My eyes went wide, then clamped shut. Inside my head, my brain became churning, molten lava. Any second now, I'd blow my top. I was going to lose it. I was going to scream. I was going to—
- 30.** Slowly, I opened my eyes to her.
- 31.** "No...lasagna?" I asked hoarsely, just in case the universe *wasn't* a cruel, cold, and unforgiving realm of doom and disappointment.
- 32.** "Sorry about that," she replied. "Is there something else I can bring you?" Uncertain, she blinked at me, and then at my family, who had all gone rigid in their chairs. My mom even had her hands pressed to the tabletop like she expected it to start levitating. Or maybe she was waiting for my head to spin.
- 33.** Four words leaked from my frozen mouth. "It'll be okay, Sport."
- 34.** She raised her brows at me, then her eyes shot to my parents and sister again, her gaze seeming to ask if there was something she was missing.
- 35.** "Ice cream," I said.
- 36.** "Pardon?" the waitress asked.
- 37.** "Yeah, I would like the triple-decker Death by Chocolate Sunday, please." It wasn't lasagna, but then again, no matter how tantalizing, lasagna wasn't an ice cream sundae, either. The waitress cleared her throat, and, for the third time, she sent an uncertain peek at my parents, her pen poised on her notepad but not yet writing.
- 38.** "With extra whipped cream," I added. "And two cherries on top...sprinkles as well."
- 39.** Another beat of quiet passed before my father finally spoke up.
- 40.** "You know what?" he said, "Change my order. I'll have the same."
- 41.** "What?" piped Abigail. "Well, if you guys are getting ice cream then that's what I want!"
- 42.** "Better make that four," my mom added.
- 43.** All day, I'd been waiting to have fun with my family. Instead, I'd found excuses as to why I wasn't having fun. Time and again, whenever something had gone wrong that day, I'd chosen to be sour and put out about it. But all along, I could have just shrugged off the bad stuff and looked for something greater--in this case, ice cream.

An Honest Mistake

1. Locked inside my bedroom
2. I don't know what to think
3. All that's going through my mind
4. Is "wow, this really stinks"

5. It all happened so quickly
6. We were just playing, I swear
7. It's just that my brother got really slippery
8. And fell out of my arms, to everyone's despair

9. We were spinning around and around
10. Making all the party guests laugh
11. Until Anthony tumbled to the ground
12. My parents didn't find much entertainment in that

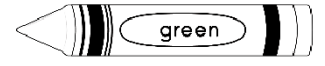
13. Of course he burst out crying
14. I stood there, embarrassed, sensing my impending doom
15. I didn't do it on purpose--I'm not lying
16. But Mom and Dad still sent me to my room

17. It doesn't feel quite fair
18. To be punished for an honest mistake
19. To purposely hurt my brother, I wouldn't dare
20. Regardless of my opinion, I'll be missing the birthday cake



Text Structure

4. How does the idea of misunderstanding and injustice contribute to the poem's structure?



- a. The speaker begins by creating a scene that most kids are familiar with.
- b. The speaker introduces the situation, then describes what happened, and finally explains why they think it was unfair.
- c. The speaker discusses how they dropped their brother on the ground and made their parents angry.
- d. The speaker first retells the series of events and then explains how the party guests felt.

5. Why do you think the author chose to use a consistent organization throughout the poem? Cite evidence from the text in your explanation.



Handwriting practice lines consisting of multiple horizontal lines for writing an answer.

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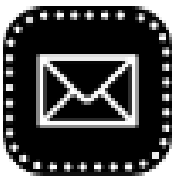
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