



## Reading Comprehension Classroom Activity

# Explore Text Structures

### Overview

Students have a framework for understanding and recalling informational texts when they recognize text structures. This activity introduces common structures in kid-friendly language, paired with visuals and hands-on practice. As students begin to notice how texts are organized, they gain confidence in understanding nonfiction content and using that structure to support writing.

**Focus:** Informational Text Structures

**Grade Range:** K-2

**Goal:** Build comprehension skills by helping students recognize how informational texts are organized—such as description, sequence, compare/contrast, problem/solution, and cause/effect.

### Materials Needed

- Student activity page(s)
- Markers, scissors, glue sticks
- Optional: pre-cut signal word cards or text boxes

### Instructions

- 1. Introduce One Structure at a Time:** Use the matching student page. Explain the structure using a kid-friendly anchor text or example.
- 2. Show and Highlight Signal Words:** Point out words like “first,” “then,” “because,” “same” that can signal how the information is organized.
- 3. Practice with the Student Page:** Students complete an activity like sorting text boxes, matching visuals, or identifying structures in a short paragraph.
- 4. Use as a Reference Tool:** Encourage students to refer back to these as anchor charts when reading or writing nonfiction texts.

### Tips for Differentiation

- Use images and icons for each structure (e.g., a clock for sequence, a magnifying glass for description).
- Pre-read text boxes aloud or pair with a partner for support.

- Let advanced students highlight signal words in their own nonfiction books.
- Use manipulatives (cut-out structures, sentence strips) in a pocket chart for hands-on learners.

## Wrap-Up Questions

- How did the author organize this text?
- What clues helped you figure it out?
- Why do you think the author used this structure?

## Student Practice Sets

Each text structure is two pages: (1) a sample anchor chart and an example that focuses on a concrete topic (e.g., frogs, apples, weather); and (2) a printable handout for students.

- **Text Structure: Description** | [Jump to page 4](#)

This structure gives detailed information about a topic so the reader can picture it clearly. Students learn to identify descriptive words and attributes that tell what something looks like, what it does, or where it is found.

- **Text Structure: Sequence** | [Jump to page 6](#)

This structure explains events or steps in the order they happen. Students practice how to use time-order words and organize steps to build an understanding of how things happen or how to do something.

- **Text Structure: Compare and Contrast** | [Jump to page 8](#)

This structure explores similarities and differences between two or more things. Students learn to analyze what is the same and what is different, often using a Venn diagram to organize their thinking.

- **Text Structure: Problem and Solution** | [Jump to page 10](#)

This structure identifies a problem and explains how it was solved. Students practice recognizing the issue in a text and connecting it to a clear resolution.

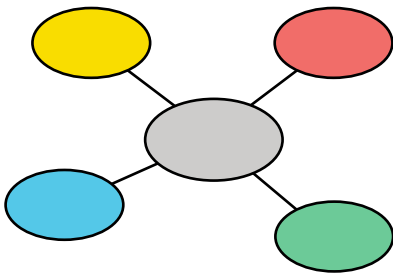
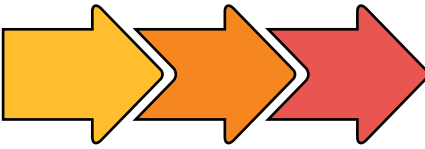
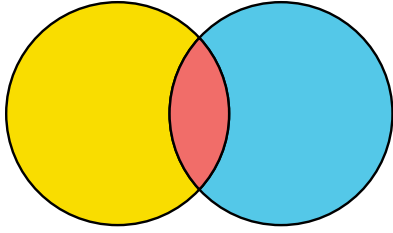
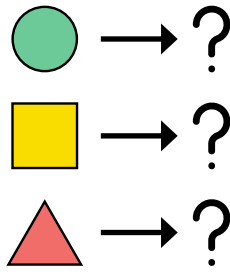
- **Text Structure: Cause and Effect** | [Jump to page 12](#)

This structure shows how one event causes another to happen. Students learn to identify relationships between actions and outcomes using key words like “because,” “so,” or “as a result.”

- **Text Structure: Structure Sort Review** | [Jump to page 14](#)

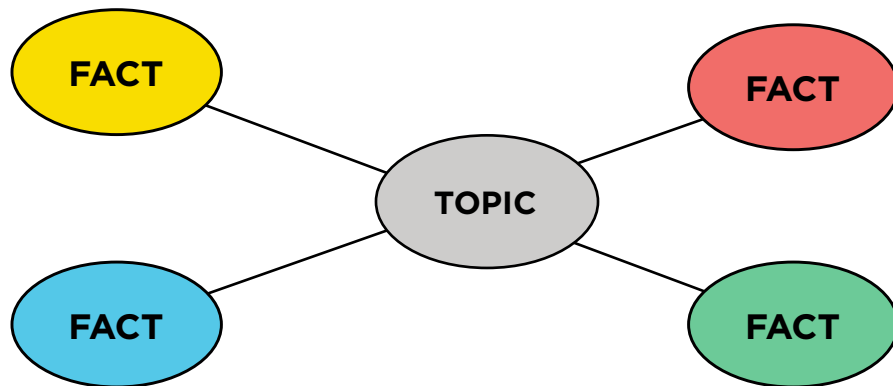
This mixed-practice activity helps students review all five text structures by matching short passages to the correct organizational pattern. It reinforces recognition through comparison and categorization.

# Non-Fiction Text Structures

| Text Structure              | Definition                                                      | Signal Words                     | Visual                                                                                |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Description</b>          | Describes details and characteristics of the topic              | for example, near, looks like    |    |
| <b>Sequence</b>             | Tells events in order or provides steps/ instructions           | first, next, then, finally       |    |
| <b>Compare and Contrast</b> | Shows similarities and differences between two or more things   | similar, different, like, unlike |  |
| <b>Problem and Solution</b> | Provides a problem and explains how it is solved                | problem, solution                |  |
| <b>Cause and Effect</b>     | Tells why something happened (cause) and what happened (effect) | because, as a result, if, then   |  |

## Text Structure: Description | Template

Describes a topic by giving details of features, characteristics, or examples.



### Signal Words

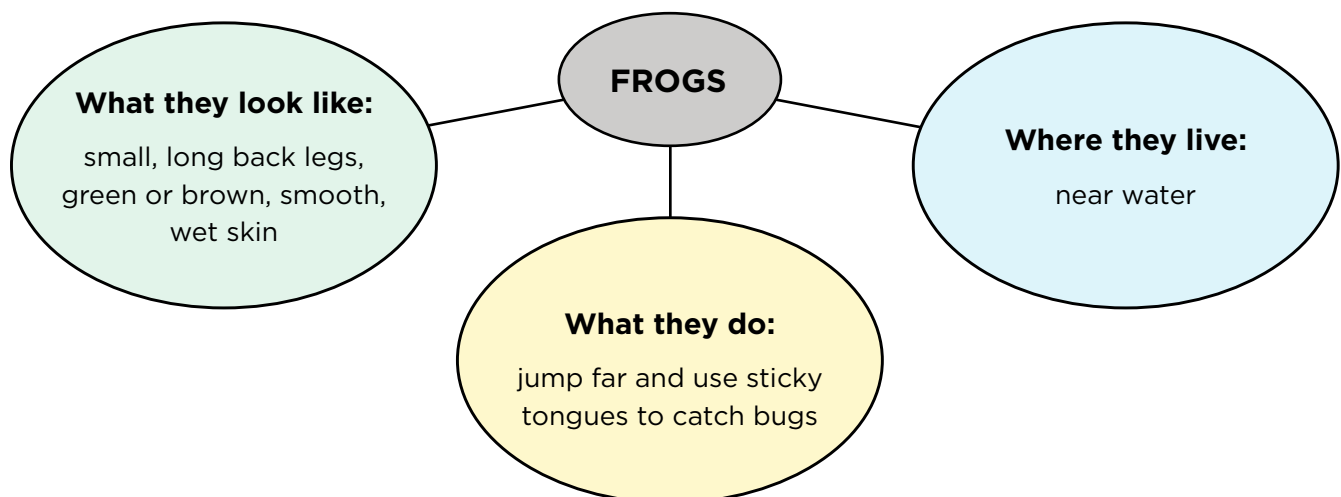
for example: near, looks like

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## Text Structure: Description | Example

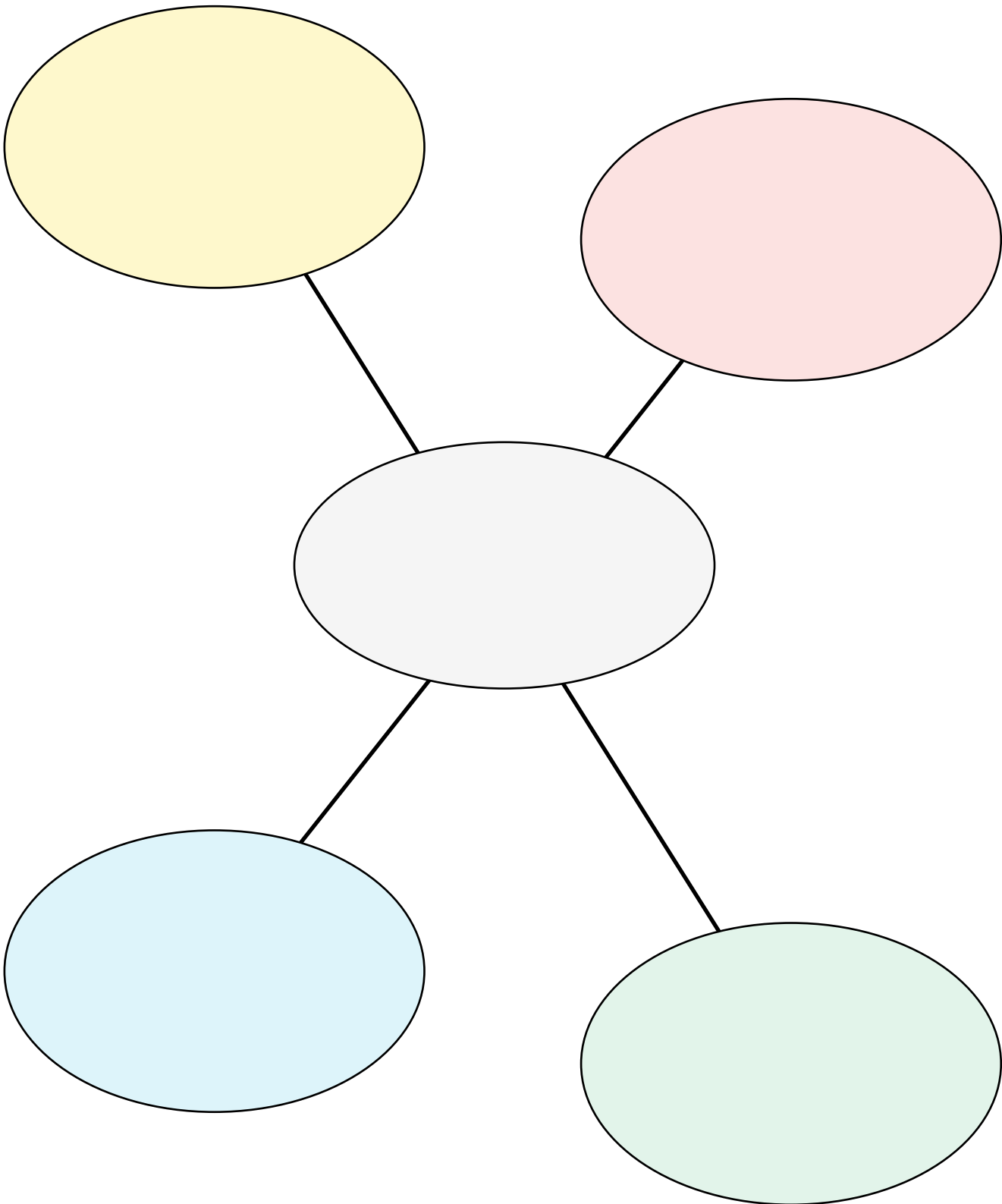
Read the passage. Highlight the descriptive words. Fill out the description web below.

**“Frogs are small animals with long back legs. They are green or brown and have smooth, wet skin. Frogs live near water and can jump far. They use their sticky tongues to catch bugs.”**



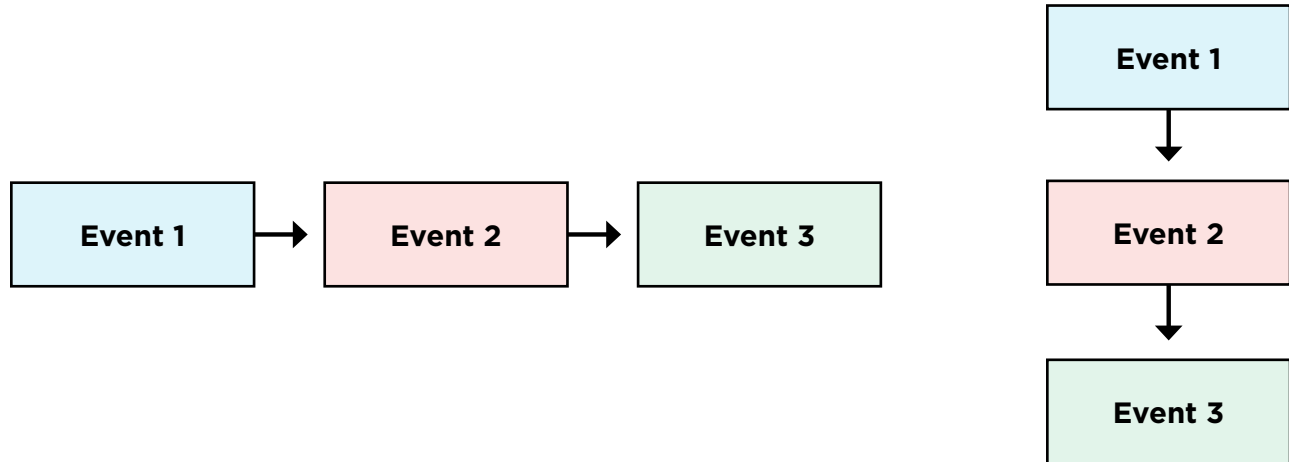
Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



## Text Structure: Sequence | Template

Tells events in order or provides steps/instructions.



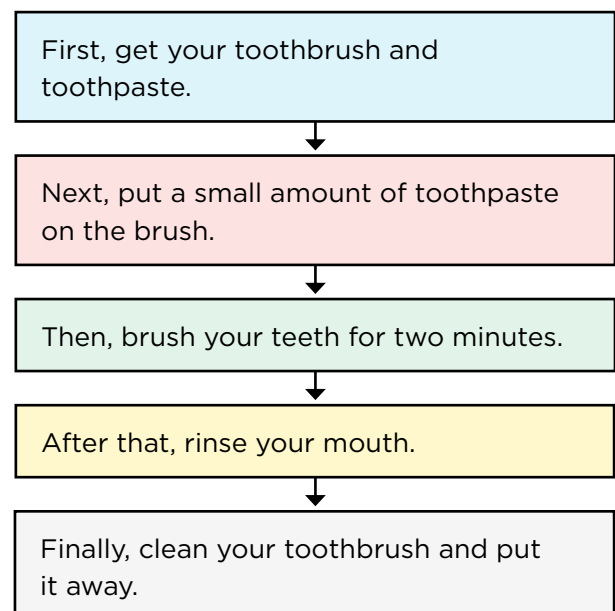
### Signal Words

first, next, then, finally

## Text Structure: Sequence | Example

**Directions:** Read the parts of a passage. Number the events in order. Fill out the sequence chart below in the correct order.

- 3 Then, brush your teeth for two minutes.
- 2 Next, put a small amount of toothpaste on the brush.
- 5 Finally, clean your toothbrush and put it away.
- 4 After that, rinse your mouth.
- 1 First, get your toothbrush and toothpaste.



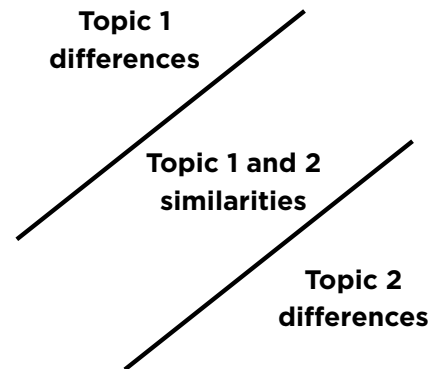
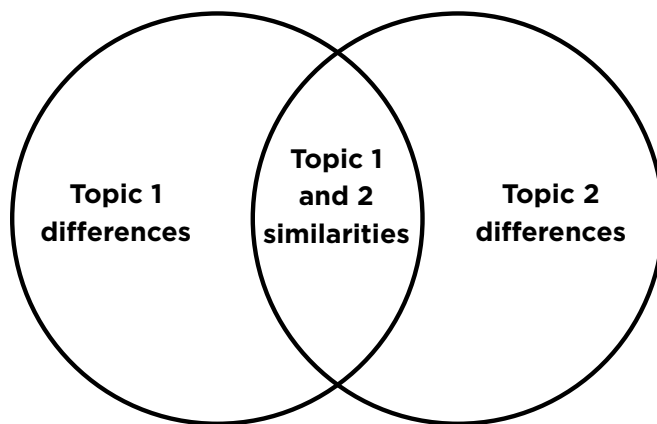
Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



## Text Structure: Compare and Contrast | Template

Shows similarities and differences between two or more things.



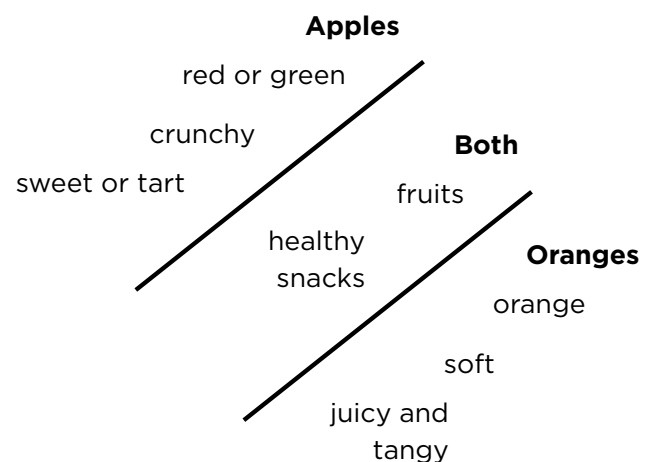
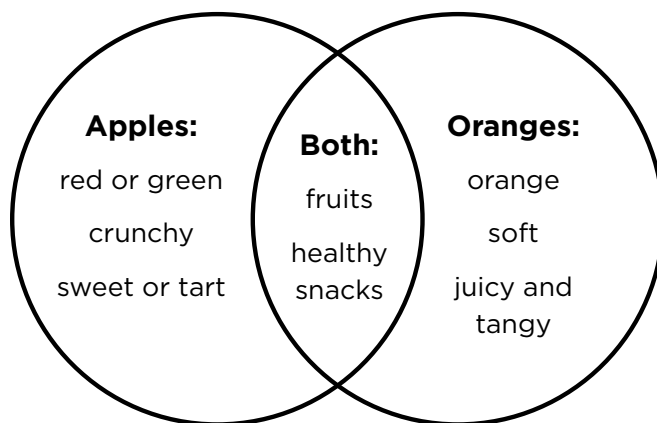
### Signal Words

similar, difference, like, unlike

## Text Structure: Compare and Contrast | Example

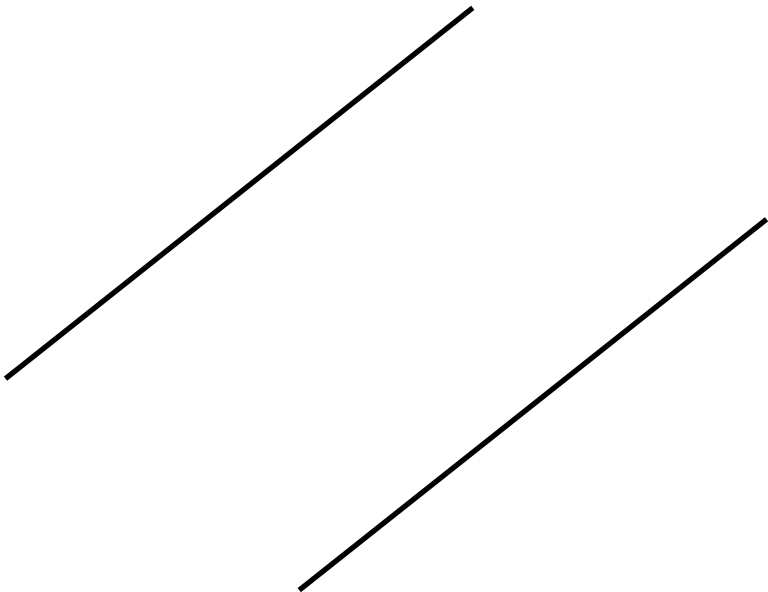
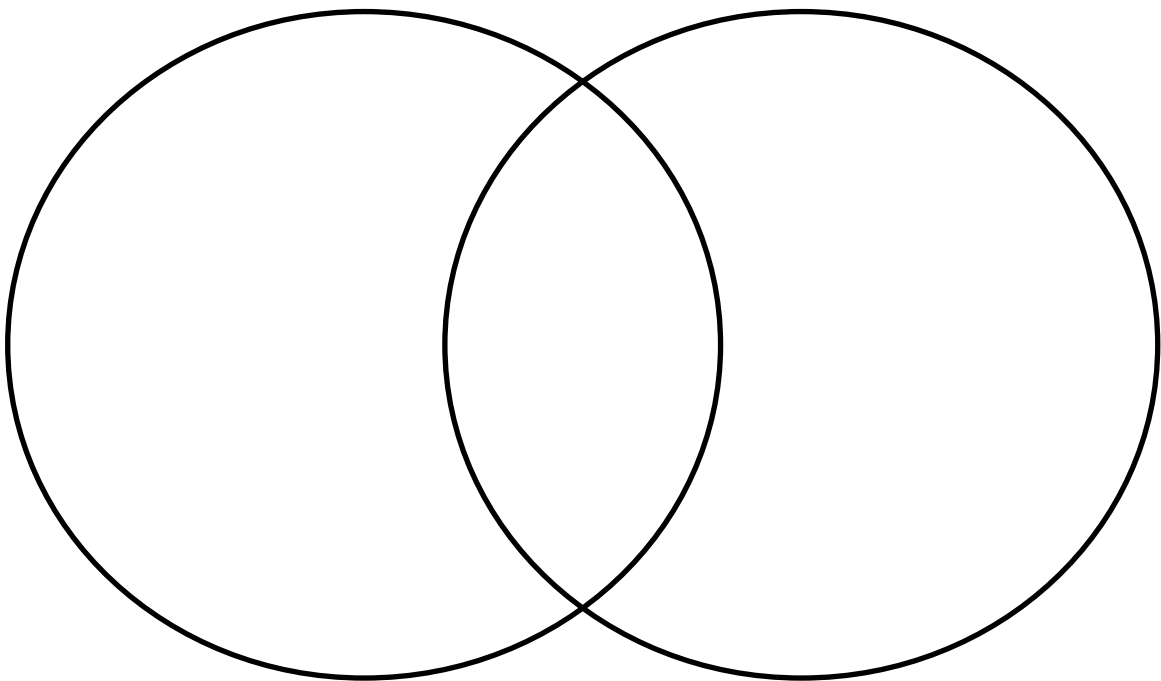
**Directions:** Read the passage. Choose a graphic organizer to compare and contrast.

**“Apples and oranges are both fruits. Apples are usually red or green and are crunchy. Oranges are orange and soft. Apples have a sweet or tart taste, while oranges are juicy and tangy. Both fruits are healthy snacks.”**



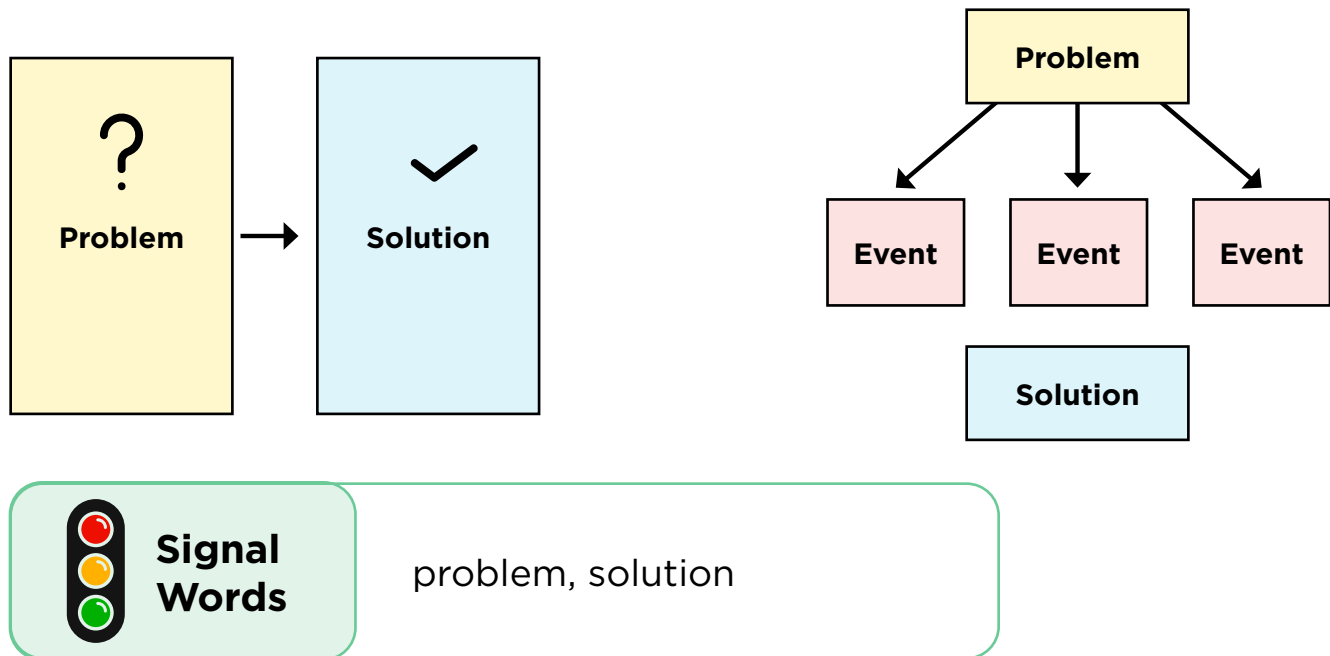
Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



## Text Structure: Problem and Solution | Template

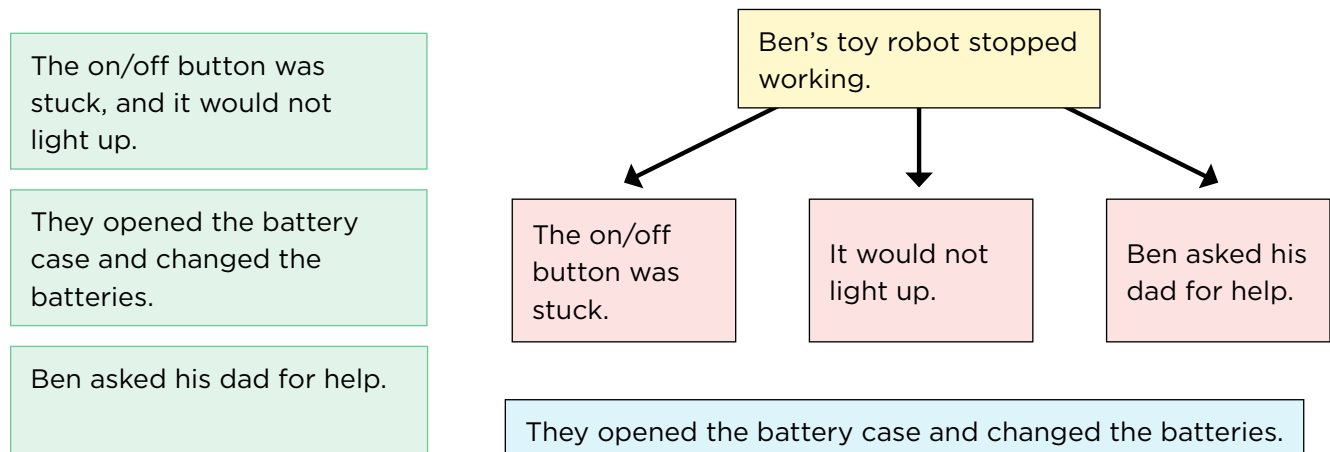
Provides a problem and explains how it is solved.



## Text Structure: Problem and Solution | Example

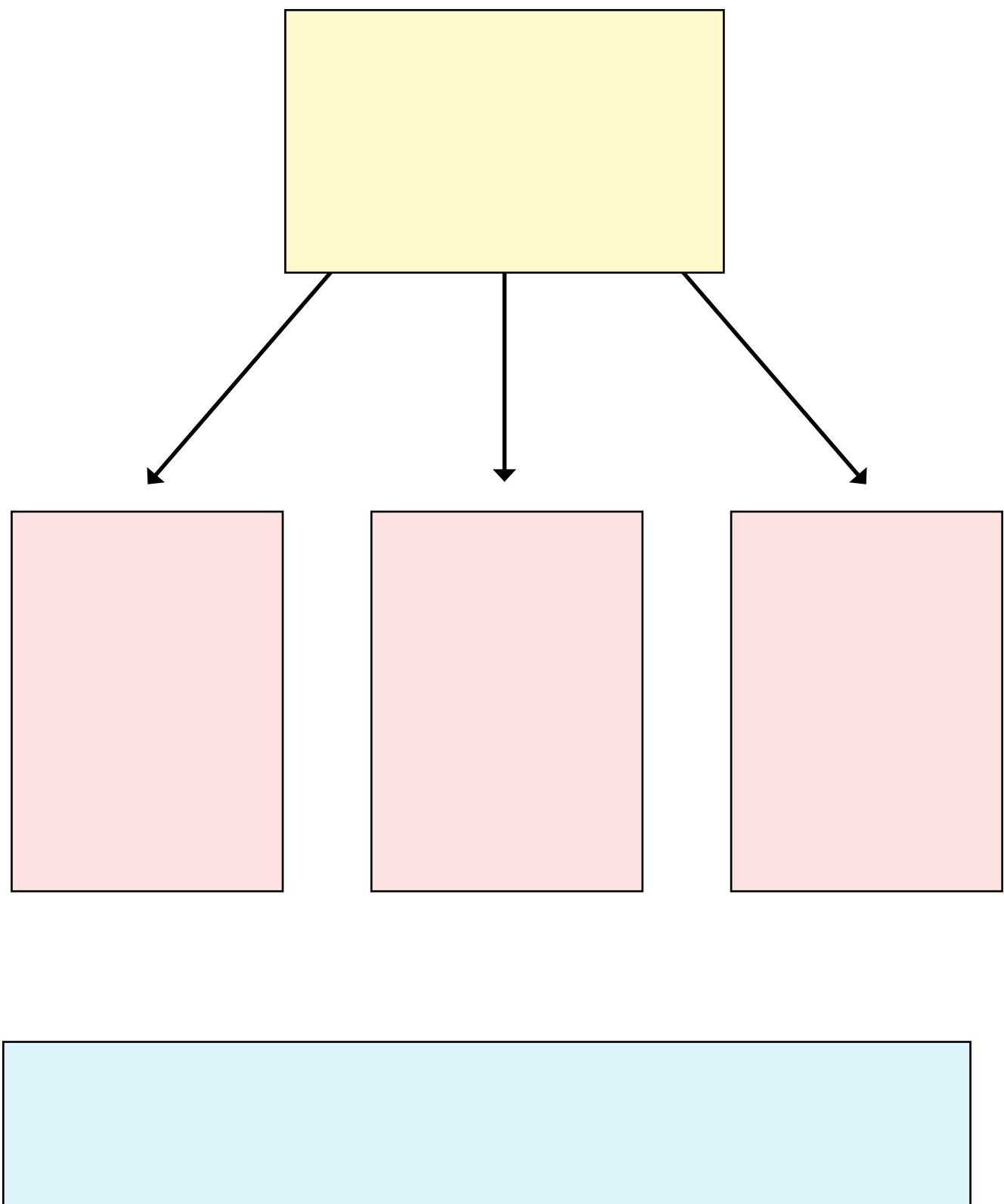
**Directions:** Read the passage. Underline the problem. Choose the correct problem from the three choices. Fill in the chart to show your thinking.

**“Ben’s toy robot stopped working. The on/off button was stuck, and it would not light up. Ben asked his dad for help. They opened the battery case and changed the batteries. The robot started to work again.”**



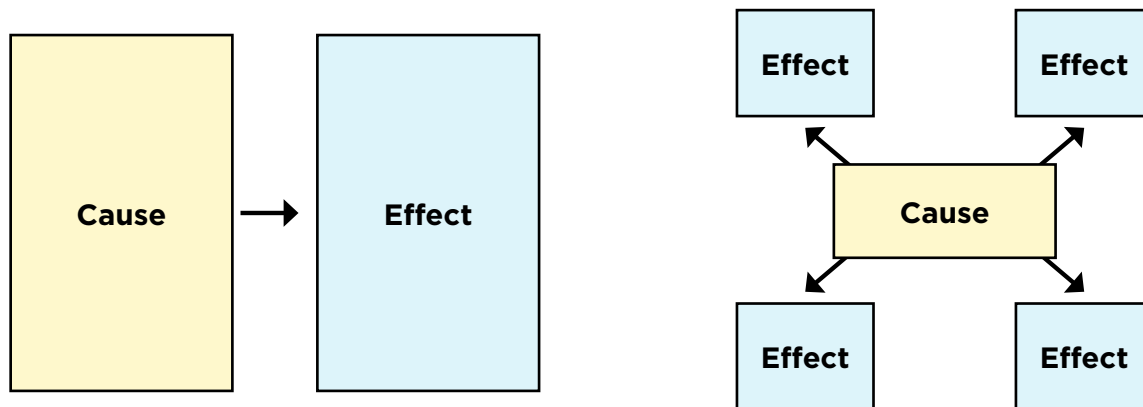
Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



## Text Structure: Cause and Effect | Template

Tells why something happened (cause) and what happened (effect).



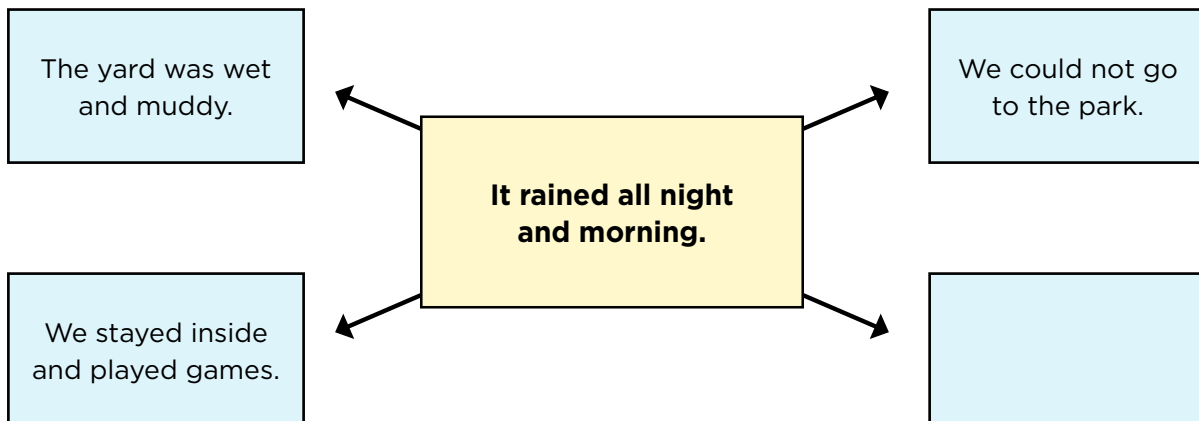
### Signal Words

because, as a result, if, then

## Text Structure: Cause and Effect | Example

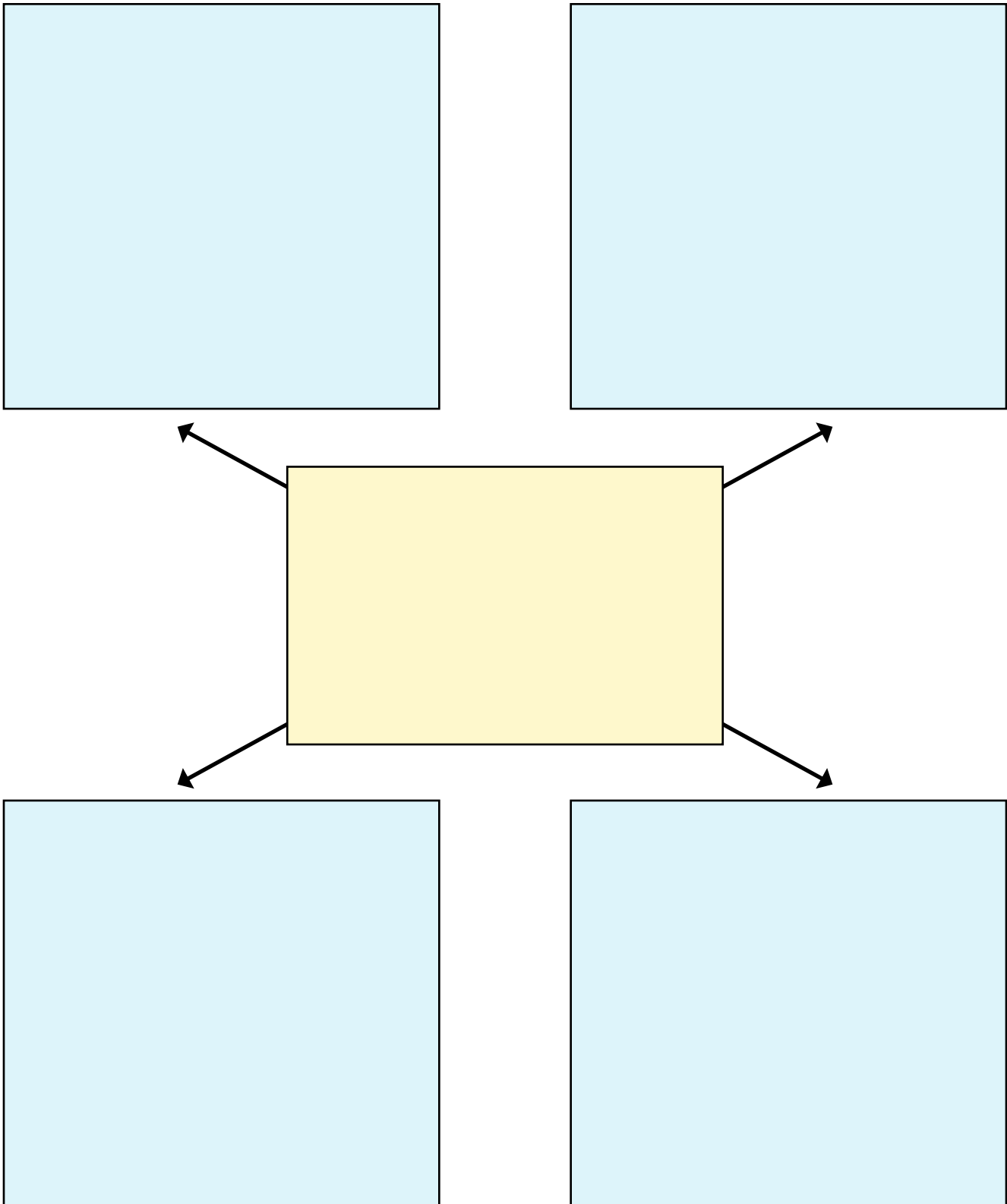
**Directions:** Read the passage. Highlight the cause and circle the effects. Fill in the chart to show your thinking.

**“It rained all night and morning. The yard was wet and muddy. Because of the rain, we could not go to the park. Instead, we stayed inside and played games.”**



Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



Text Structure: Structure Sort Review

Directions: Read the passages. Cut each one out and use the sorting mat to place them in the correct text structure.

| Description | Sequence | Problem and Solution | Compare and Contrast |
|-------------|----------|----------------------|----------------------|
|             |          |                      |                      |



|                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                     |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Dogs bark and like to go on walks. Cats meow and enjoy quiet naps. Both are pets that people love. | Penguins are birds that cannot fly. They have black and white feathers, short legs, and flippers to help them swim. | First, lay out two slices of bread. Next, add peanut butter and jelly. Then press the slices together and take a bite! | Jada lost her shoe at recess. She looked under the slide and near the swings. Finally, she found it by the sandbox. |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

## Text Structure: Structure Sort Review

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|             |          |                      |                      |



|                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                    |
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