

# READING HELPER: LITERATURE

## STORY ELEMENTS

**Characters** - the people or animals that are important to the story

**Setting** - the time and place of the events

**Plot** - the order of events in the story; usually revolves around a conflict or challenge

## THEME

**Theme** - the life lesson that readers can learn and apply to their lives.

Readers learn lessons by thinking about how the characters react to goals, challenges, or conflicts in their lives.

**Example Themes** - Don't give up on something that is important to you. Don't judge people before you get to know them.

## POINT OF VIEW

**Point of View** - the perspective from which the narrator or character tells the story

**1<sup>st</sup> Person Point of View** - when a character from the story is telling the story from his or her own experiences

**3<sup>rd</sup> Person Point of View** - when a narrator who is not part of the story is telling the story

## CONTEXT CLUES

**Context Clues** - clues that readers use to determine the meanings of unknown words

**Types of Context Clues** - definition clues, synonym clues, antonym clues, example clues, and inference clues

## FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE

**Figurative Language** - any phrase that goes beyond its literal meaning

**Simile** - a type of figurative language that makes a comparison using like or as

**Metaphor** - a type of figurative language that makes a direct comparison

**Personification** - a type of figurative language that gives human qualities to a nonhuman object

**Hyperbole** - an extreme exaggeration

## INFERENCES

**Inferences** - Readers make inferences when they use evidence from the story and their background knowledge to figure out something that the author did not directly state in the story.

**Background Knowledge (what you know) + Text Evidence (what the text says) = Inference**

# READING HELPER: INFORMATIONAL

## MAIN IDEA

**Main Idea** - the most important idea that the author wants the reader to understand about a topic

**Supporting Details** - details used by the author to support or elaborate on the main idea

## MAIN POINT

**Main Point** - the belief, opinion, or argument that the author of a text is claiming or proving

**Reasons** - facts, details, or other sources of information that support an author's claim or main point

## MULTIPLE ACCOUNTS

**Firsthand Account** - The account is told from someone who was actually at the event that he or she is writing about. Examples: diaries and autobiographies

**Secondhand Account** - The account is told based on research. The event is being described by someone who was not there and did not experience it personally. Examples: informational books and textbooks

## TEXT STRUCTURES

**Text Structure** - the way an author organizes a text

**Description** - explains a topic, idea, person, place, or object by listing characteristics, features, and examples

**Chronological Order** - written in the order in which steps or events occur

**Problem and Solution** - presents a problem and one or more solutions

**Cause and Effect** - describes an event (the cause) and the effects of that event

**Compare and Contrast** - explains how two or more topics are similar and different

## INTEGRATE

**Integrate** - to combine information from two or more sources to write one text about the topic

## AUTHOR'S VIEWPOINT

**Viewpoint** - the way an author views or looks at the topic being described

An author's viewpoint can be positive, negative, or neutral. Readers analyze the facts, details, and word choice to determine an author's viewpoint.

This resource was created by Jennifer Findley. It may be printed and photocopied for single classroom use. It may not be put on the Internet, sold, or distributed in any form. Check out my store for more resources that are common core aligned.



Follow my blog for updates and freebies.

[www.JenniferFindley.com](http://www.JenniferFindley.com)

Thanks!  
Jennifer Findley

