

A Quick Guide to Assessment Vocabulary

1. **Summarize** means to give a brief description of the events in the story. Use “*Somebody Wanted But So Then*” or *SWBST*. That puts the focus on the main events of the story. **Somebody** (*the main character*), **Wanted** (*what is the character trying to achieve*), **But** (*what keeps the character from achieving the goal, the problem/conflict*) **So** (*what does the character have to do to overcome the conflict/problem*) **Then** (*what happens after the conflict/problem is solved*)
2. **Infer** means to use evidence (*what is in the text*) to make a “guess” about what is going to happen or why something happened in the text (story).
3. **Analyze** means to examine (*look at*) parts of the text carefully in order to develop a deeper understanding of the text.
4. **Context clues** are hints in the text that the author gives to help the reader determine the meanings of words.
5. **Text structure** is the format of the text. Example Text Structures: *Cause and Effect • Sequential Order • Problem/Solution • Compare and Contrast*
6. **Cause and effect** refers to an action (*cause*) and the results of that action (*effect*).
7. **Sequential order** is the order in which the events in a text happen.
8. **Problem/Solution** text structure provides a problem and details the solution to the problem.
9. **Compare and Contrast** text structure details how things are alike (*compare*) and different (*contrast*).
10. **Supports** means to prove using details from the text.
11. **Evidence** are details from the text that prove a point.

Additional Terms

12. **Author's Purpose** means the author's motivation for writing the text. Authors write for a variety of reasons: to persuade the reader, to inform the reader, to entertain the reader, to explain a topic, or to describe a topic.
13. The **theme** of a story is considered the lesson or message the author attempts to convey to the reader.
14. The **intended audience** of the text refers to who does the author believe will be the primary reader of the text.
15. The story's **plot** consist of the key (important) events of the story. The parts of a plot are as follows:
- A. **Exposition:** the reader is introduced to the characters and learns details that are important to the story line.
 - B. **Rising Action:** includes events leading to the climax or turning point in the story.
 - C. **Climax:** the part of the story where the action reaches its highest point.
 - D. **Falling action:** the events after the climax that lead to the resolution of the story.
 - E. **Resolution:** the part of the story where the events of the story are concluded or wrapped up.