

Name: _____ Date: _____

Understanding Text Structures

Directions: Text structure is the way an author organizes information in a piece of writing. Authors use different text structures to achieve different purposes. Common text structures are listed in the boxes on the right. Use the information in these boxes to help you answer the questions below about "A Race Against Time."

1. Reread the first section. Which key details tell you that the author recounts a **sequence of events** in this section? _____

Why do you think the author uses this text structure? _____

2. In the section "Extraordinary Powers," the author uses both **compare-and-contrast** and **cause-and-effect** text structures. What is an example of each? _____

Description

includes details to help you picture or get to know a person, place, thing, or idea.

Cause and Effect

explains *why* something happened (cause) and *what* happened as a result (effect).

Problem and Solution

presents a problem and explains how it is solved.

Compare and Contrast

presents the similarities and/or differences between two items, such as events, time periods, or places.

Sequence of Events

describes events in the order in which they happen. This is also called *chronological order*.

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3. The section "Passing the Test" uses **description**. What does it describe? _____

Why do you think the author uses this text structure? _____

4. Which text structure does the author mainly use in the section "Nose to the Ground"?

Explain your answer using examples. _____

5. Look at the series of photographs at the bottom of pages 6 and 7. Imagine you were going to add a section to the article, providing information conveyed in the pictures and captions. Which text structure would you mainly use? Why? _____
