

Text Structure and Language Features: Example 1

Text Structure - Narrative

Title

Orientation - introduces main characters

Initial complication

Record of events

Complication - includes record of events

Resolution

Coda

THE LEGEND OF DAEDALUS AND ICARUS

A long time ago, on the island of Crete, there lived a cruel king called Minos. He had many prisoners on the island. Among these prisoners were an inventor called Daedalus, and his son Icarus.

Minos kept the harbours in the sea under guard so nobody could escape. "Very well," Daedalus told Icarus, "we'll try the sky." He meant that they would fly away from the island, like birds.

Daedalus gathered all the feathers he could find, then he stuck them together with wax to make two pairs of wings. "Now you can fly," he whispered to Icarus. "Listen to me carefully. Here are the rules for flying to keep us safe. Stay close behind me. Don't fly too high because the sun will melt the wax. Don't fly too low, as the water will make the feathers wet and heavy." Late that evening, when the sun had set, they took off from the edge of a cliff, soaring like eagles.

They flew quietly through the dark night and after a few hours the sun rose. At first, Icarus obeyed the rules, but then he forgot, because he was having too much fun. He flew closer and closer to the hot sun. Daedalus called out to him, but there was no answer.

Daedalus turned back to look for his son, with fear in his heart. He saw nothing but a few feathers floating on the sea. When he realised that his son had drowned, he let out a cry of grief and tears rolled from his eyes. His son was gone forever.

The island near where legend says that Icarus fell into the sea is called Icaria.

Language Features

Identification of main characters by name e.g. Minos, Daedalus

Use of word families to build information, e.g. birds, fly, wings, feathers

Use of action verbs, e.g. gathered, obeyed

Use of imperatives, for giving rules. "Stay close", "Don't fly too close."

Use of various tenses including present, past, future, e.g. here are, were, obeyed, will melt, (but mainly past describing events that happened in the past.)

Use of direct speech, e.g. "Now you can fly," he whispered to Icarus.

Use of saying verbs, e.g. told, whispered

Use of thinking verbs, e.g. realised, meant

Use of connectives of time to sequence events, e.g. at first, when

Use of connectives of cause and effect to show connections between events e.g. because, as

Use of complex sentences, e.g. When realised that his son had drowned he let out a cry of grief and tears rolled from his eyes.