

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 "The Boy Who Fought Hitler."

1. What is the main purpose of the article? _____

Which overall text structure does the author use to achieve this purpose?

2. In the first three paragraphs of the opening section, the author compares Ben Kamm to "you and your friends." What are some examples of this?

Why do you think the author opens the article this way? _____

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. In the section "Hateful Lies," the author uses a cause-and-effect structure to explain a series of events that led to Hitler's rise to power in Germany and what happened after. For the cause given, write three effects on the lines below. (You may quote lines from the article or rewrite them in your own words.)

Cause: Hitler blamed the Jews for Germany's problems.

Effect 1: _____

Effect 2: _____

Effect 3: _____

4. The author uses sequence of events as the text structure for the section "Luck and Sorrow." Which phrases show you that this is a sequence-of-events structure?

