Literary Element (page 416)
Structure

Into Thin Air  JON KRAKAUER

Structure is the particular order or pattern that a writer uses to present ideas. The structure of a piece of writing helps a reader make sense of the details. For example, many narratives use chronological, or time, order. This order helps the reader understand when an event or action is happening. Clues to chronological order include references to specific times of day, such as 2:30; to sunrise, sunset, and other nonspecific times; and to times of the year.

Some narratives, as well as descriptive essays, employ spatial order. Spatial order helps the reader follow movement from place to place. Clues to spatial order include all references to location, including top, bottom, left, right, back, front, inside, and outside.

ACTIVITY

Directions  Krakauer uses both chronological and spatial order in “Into Thin Air.” Complete the chart below to show the details of Krakauer’s adventure both through time and over distance. In the right-hand column, include elevation in feet if the selection provides the information.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unstated: probably about 2 PM</td>
<td>1.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:15 to approximately 3:00 PM</td>
<td>2.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:15 to approximately 3:30 PM</td>
<td>South Summit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>4.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>26,600 ft.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>7.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unstated: probably about 7:30 PM</td>
<td>8.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Reading Strategy (page 416)
Monitoring Comprehension

Into Thin Air JON KRAKAUER

Monitoring comprehension is a process of making sure you are understanding what you read. There are many ways to monitor comprehension, but the most important is to stop and ask yourself questions. For a narrative, these questions are helpful:

Who is speaking? Who is this character or person?
Where is this event taking place? Where is this place?
What is happening? What is this object or idea?

When monitoring comprehension, asking questions is only part of the job. You must also find the answers. Usually, you can find answers by rereading specific bits of text where characters, places, or events are mentioned. You might, however, also have to refer to other clues, including illustrations, headings, footnotes, and background information.

ACTIVITY

Directions Use the text, author’s biography, Building Background, and footnotes to complete each item. Provide as many details as possible.

Who is 1. Andy Fisher ____________________________

2. Rob Hall ____________________________

3. Martin Adams ____________________________

4. Beck Weathers ____________________________

Where is 5. the Hillary Step ____________________________

6. the Balcony ____________________________

7. Camp Four ____________________________

What is 8. a regulator ____________________________

9. hypoxia ____________________________

Active Reading Graphic Organizer

People who were on this climb were related to each other in different ways. Some were guides, and some were followers. Some were very experienced climbers, and others, perhaps, should not have been on the mountain. Some were on the same climbing team, while others were related by friendship or past experience. Ask your teacher for a copy of the Cluster Graphic Organizer so that you can show the relationships among the climbers.
Selection Vocabulary Practice (page 416)

Into Thin Air  JON KRAKAUER

Vocabulary

tenuously  adv.  uncertainly; shakily
exacerbate  v.  to make worse, more violent, or more bitter
invincible  adj.  not able to be beaten or overcome
terrain  n.  the physical features of the land
detachment  n.  indifference; a state of being apart from

EXERCISE A  Practice with Word Parts

Choose the word that answers each question. Use a dictionary for help.

1. Which word has a prefix that means “apart from”?
   A. exacerbate  B. tenuously  C. detachment

2. Which word has a prefix meaning “not”?
   A. exacerbate  B. invincible  C. terrain

3. Which word shares a root with and is related in meaning to the words territory and extraterrestrial?
   A. exacerbate  B. tenuously  C. terrain

4. Which word has a root that means “thin”?
   A. invincible  B. tenuously  C. terrain

5. Which word shares a root with and is related in meaning to acid?
   A. invincible  B. detachment  C. exacerbate

EXERCISE B  Applying Meanings

Match each word with its antonyms or near antonyms.

1. tenuously ______  A. improve, upgrade, advance
2. exacerbate ______  B. connectedness, involvement, attachment
3. detachment ______  C. beatable, conquerable, weak
4. invincible ______  D. certainly, firmly, steadily

EXERCISE C  Responding to the Selection

Write a reflection on how you feel about the thrills and dangers of climbing the world’s highest and most dangerous mountains. Use four of the vocabulary words.