

Examples of the Academic Language of Language Arts

Vocabulary

General academic vocabulary

- *analysis, relationship, assume, context, structure, create, identify, involve, occur*

Literary vocabulary

- *genre, metaphor, simile, hyperbole, irony, personification, rhetoric, figure of speech, symbolism*

Names of genres and story features

- *narrative, persuasive, expository, fantasy, fiction, realistic*
- *plot, setting, character, point of view*

Grammatical terms

- *subject, predicate, embedded clause, agent*

Grammatical Structures

Dialect

- *They be a big storm a'comin'.*

Figurative language and idiomatic language

- *A great wallowing bush of mock orange ...; He plunged back into literature ...*
- *It came out of the blue.*

Passives and impersonal structures

- *One can only assume ...*
- *Steps should be taken ...*

Unclear references

- *... my employer had entered. Upon seeing my person ...*
[meaning *upon seeing me*]

Unreal past conditions

- *I could not have expressed this view ...*

Verb tenses and sequences of tenses, often with sequence of events not the same as sequence of clauses

Examples of the Academic Language of Language Arts (contd.)

- *He had witnessed his father's fall a week or so earlier, when he had been entertaining guests, and had watched his father walking across the lawn ...*

Language Functions and Discourse Structures

Functions

- analyze, make connections, interpret, persuade, explain, compare/contrast, identify cause/effect

Discourse Markers

- *in the first place, initially, previously, afterwards, subsequently, eventually* (sequence)
- *due to, seeing that, in view of, consequently, accordingly, as a result* (cause/effect)
- *similarly, likewise, in the same way; whereas, on the other hand, however, while* (comparison/contrast)

Story Structure

- beginning/middle/end
- setting/problem/solution

Writing genres

- Narrative: plot structure, conflict, characterization, theme, point of view, sequencing
- Descriptive: sensory language, detail, figurative language
- Expository: topic, supporting details, explanations and examples, clarity and coherence, logical organization
- Persuasive: stated position, factual support, persuasive techniques, logical argument, call to action