

A Collection of All the Text Structures

THE MEMORY STRUCTURE				
Where I was and what I was doing	What happened first	What happened next	What happened last	What I learned or realized

HOW ONE EVENT CHANGED A CHARACTER		
How a character was before	What happened	How the character changed

11-MINUTE ESSAY				
Truism (something I believe is true)	One way I know it's true (an example from a book, a movie, history, or my life)	Another way I know it's true (an example from a book, a movie, history, or my life)	Another way I know it's true (an example from a book, a movie, history, or my life)	Truism (said differently) or I wonder ...

YEARNING FOR A FRIEND				
Why I felt alone	What I decided to do about it	How that didn't help	How I finally found a friend	What we did together

BAD DAY				
This thing happened, and it was bad because ...	How I wanted to respond, but didn't	Another thing happened, and it was bad because ...	How I wanted to respond, but didn't	What someone told me that helped me see it differently*
Repeat these first four steps as many times as your story needs.				
*This is a good place for a truism!				

I'M SO			
I'm so _____ (adjective)	A pitchforked list of things I do that show you I am so _____ (adjective)	How I became so _____ (adjective)	How I am becoming less _____ (adjective)

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BLUNDERING		
The mistake I made	How I tried to solve it alone but failed	How it ended

A CHANGE IN PERSPECTIVE				
What I saw and thought at first	Something I saw that surprised me	How I investigated my discovery	How I saw things differently	How I changed as a result

TRYING TO GET RID OF SOMETHING					
How the bad thing appeared	My reaction :(Someone else's reaction :)	How others pressured me to do something about what I saw	How I tried to end the thing	How my mind changed (or didn't)*
*This is a good place for a truism					

VOICING A COMPLAINT				
How ____ has been great	What I have really enjoyed	What the bad part is	I can't even ...	How I want it fixed

FINDING THE THING I LOVE			
Before I found (the thing that I love or collect), life was ...	How I discovered (the thing)	How it changed me	How it could change others

SOMEBODY WANTED, BUT, SO THEN				
Somebody (the main character)	Wanted _____.	But this made it difficult (a conflict)	So this is how the character dealt with the conflict	Then this is how it was resolved

RIPPLES OF UNKINDNESS			
The person I was unkind to	What I did that was unkind	What made me realize I was unkind	What I did with my regret

SHARING THE MAGIC					
What the gift was	Who benefited from it first	Who benefited from it next	Who benefited from it next	Who tried to take or ruin it	How it returned anyway

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HEALING FROM HURT		
How my feelings were hurt	How someone made me feel better	What I learned or realized*
*This is a good place for a truism!		

LEARNING SOMETHING NEW (WITH HELP)				
What I wanted to do or learn	Why it was hard (or seemed impossible)	Something I learned that helped	Something else I learned that helped	How I finally learned or did it

I USED TO HATE IT				
I hated _____ because ...	I was supposed to love it because ...	So instead, I tried ... (pitchforked nouns!)	But I missed ... (the thing you hated before)	So I gave it another try and ...

BECOMING VISIBLE		
How I felt invisible (or left out)	What happened that started to change things	How things got better

WATCHING AND TRYING			
I watched _____ do _____.	I wanted to do _____, too.	I tried to do _____.	I am more like _____ than I thought.

A FICTIONAL JOURNEY		
I lost this thing	What probably actually happened to it	Or what <i>COULD</i> have happened to it (fictional journey)*
*Pitchforks are good to show the steps of the journey.		

A SPECIAL MOMENT I WANT TO KEEP			
Where I was and what unusual thing I heard or saw	What I did about it	The surprising thing I saw or heard	How it felt

GAINING A NEW PERSPECTIVE		
Where I had to go (but didn't want to)	How I felt about going	What changed my mind

THE STORY OF MY THINKING		
I used to think ...	But this happened	So now I know ... *
*This is a good place for a truism!		

A COMPROMISE			
How I wanted something done	How things didn't go my way	How I compromised	What I learned*
*This is a good place for a truism!			

A TEMPORARY STORM			
How things were before	How things got worse or more difficult	A decision I made	How things improved

A TREASURE I USED TO HAVE			
Something I loved	Why it was so special	What I loved doing with it	What happened to it*
*This is a good place to add a truism!			

NO ONE THOUGHT I COULD					
I decided to do/try _____.	_____ didn't think I could	How I tried and thought I'd failed	How other people unsuccessfully tried to help me	How I actually succeeded	Optional: Truism

THE UPS AND DOWNS OF CHANGE			
How things used to be	What changed things (with a negative result)	Then what changed things (with a positive result)	How we came to accept this new way

BACK TO THE DRAWING BOARD			
What I decided to do	How it didn't work	What all I tried	What I figured out to make it work*
*This is a good place to add a truism!			

MISSING SOMEONE				
The person I miss	What I miss doing with that person	The worst part is . . .	What helps	What I realize (something that is important for me to remember)*
*This is a good place for a truism!				

LEARNING TO DO SOMETHING				
I wanted to learn how to . . .	But I wasn't good at it because . . .	I watched or listened or learned from (someone).	Then I realized . . .	Now I know that . . .*
*This is a truism.				

DEALING WITH MY MONSTER				
I've been doing <u> </u> forever.	I always do/did it when . . .	How I tried to get rid of it	How that backfired	How I finally managed*
*This is a good place for a truism!				

A QUIET WISH				
A quiet wish I had	What happened that made me keep it a secret	What happened that made me let it out	What happened next as a result (or how others reacted)	What I learned*
*This is a good place for a truism!				

A LONG ROAD TO HOPE				
How things became bad	The first step to things getting better	An act of kindness someone showed me	Next steps to things changing	Questions I wonder as things begin to improve

A WISH DEFERRED				
What I wanted to do	Why I didn't do it	What I did instead	How I decided to finally do it	How things changed once I did it*
*This is a good place for a truism!				

UNWANTED GIFT		
The gift I wanted	The gift I actually got	How I learned to appreciate the gift

DARK DAYS			
How things used to be	How things changed	How I reacted	How things got better

WAR BETWEEN THE SANDWICHES			
How there was harmony at first	How then there was difference between us	How the difference caused a disagreement	How things ended

SOLVING A PROBLEM		
What the problem was	How I decided to tackle it	How it worked out

FINDING WHERE I FIT		
What made me unique	How I tried to be accepted by others	How I found where I fit

UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES				
I thought I could ...	Because I ...	But this happened	As a result ...	Now, I know that ...*
*This is a truism.				

FROM ENEMIES TO FRIENDS		
How someone annoyed me	How I dealt with it	How my feelings towards that person changed

LEARNING TO BE ME			
How I am or was different	How I tried to fit in	A lesson I learned	How I learned to accept or be myself

MANY WAYS TO HEAR* SOMETHING		
When this happened, _____ (the thing) sounded like _____.	When this happened, _____ (the thing) sounded like _____.	When this happened, _____ (the thing) sounded like _____.
*Feel free to use a different sense!		

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SHARING AND SHARING AND SHARING			
I had this really good thing	Someone I shared it with	One downside of sharing that happened	One upside of sharing that happened*
*This is a good place for a truism!			

HELPING EACH OTHER		
The person I helped	How I helped	How that person also helped me

GETTING PAST THE TROLL				
What I wanted	One way I tried to get it	Another way I tried	Another way I tried	The result

PICTURE BOOK STORY STRUCTURE*				
A character wants something	A problem stops the character from getting that thing (rule of three)	The character tries to fix it, but fails	Then the character has an epiphany—an “ah-ha” moment	The character solves the problem or gets what is wanted but in a surprising way
*This story structure appears in LOTS of picture books. Why not see if you can find it in another book or two?				

FITTING IN			
How I was different	What I wished I were like	What I tried to do to fit in that didn’t work	The moment things changed for the better

AN EMBARRASSING MEMORY				
Where I was	What happened first	What happened next that made me cringe	What happened next that changed my view	What I realized*
*This is a truism.				

WHAT I HAVE TO DO					
I am ... and I want ...	I can ... (pitchforked verbs)	But I can’t ... (pitchforked verbs)	What I (still) have to do	Why it’s important	I am ...

A BAD FIRST IMPRESSION				
My new situation	The thing I did that people didn’t like	How people reacted	What made me see the thing I did through their eyes	How I changed or what I did instead

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