Types of Text Structures in Informational Texts – Elementary Language Arts

Text Structure	Definitions	Critical Words	Graphic Organizer	Example of Texts
Description	Descriptive details about characteristics, actions, etc.	Descriptive adjective and words like on, over, beyond, within	- 	A butterfly doesn't have teeth. Instead, it eats by using its proboscis, which is a tongue that works like a straw. Most butterflies feed on nectar from flowers, but some like rotting fruit and tree sap. A Butterfly's Life (Kelly, 2007)
Problem/ Solution	Sets up a problem and its solution	Propose, conclude, a solution, the reason for, the problem or question		How do caterpillars adapt to survive? Many caterpillars rely on camouflage to avoid being seen. Some look like their backgrounds, whether a twig, leaf or a flower. Others have bright colors to tell predators that they taste bad. Some caterpillars even have false legs or eyes to confuse predators. Face to Face with Caterpillars (Murawski, 2007)
Time/Order Chronological	Gives information in order of occurrence	First, second, before, after, finally, then, next, earlier	○→○→○	When writing a thank you note, first express your appreciation for their thoughtfulness. Next, mention the present by name. Tell how much you like it or how you plan to use it in the future. Write in your best handwriting. Finally, reread the message to check for any errors before sending it off. Be prompt in sending it on its way.
Comparison/ Contrast	Looking at two or more items to establish similarities/differences	While, yet, but, rather, most, same, either, as well as, like, and unlike, as opposed to		It is pretty easy to tell the difference between a bee and a wasp. A wasp is thinner and more aggressive than a bee. Bees are plumper and not as aggressive. Wasps will usually hover around food and garbage, whereas bees are more interested in flowers.
Cause/Effect	Give reason/explanation for happening	Because, since, if/then, due to, as a result, for this reason, on account of, consequently		The wind speed during a hurricane can reach up to 200 mph. These high winds can cause damage to buildings and land. Hurricanes also cause the water to rise and huge waves to hit the coast. These waves and high water levels, called storm surges, cause erosion. Erosion is the breakdown of the land.