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Types of Text Structures

Nadine Gordimer's "Once Upon a Time" was originally published in 1989. The late 1980s were a period of internal unrest in South Africa and this story reflects the fear and isolation that people felt as the policy of apartheid continued to be forced. To convey her ideas, Gordimer structured her story using some of the traditional elements of fairy tales.

Read the following passage and answer the questions.

The Electric Car Revolution

Electric vehicles were first introduced in the mid-19th century. In fact, between 1832 and 1839, Scottish inventor Robert Anderson created the first crude electric carriage. By the early 1900s, electric cars were actually more popular than gasoline-powered vehicles, with many people preferring their quiet operation and lack of exhaust.

However, the invention of the electric starter in 1912 made gasoline cars easier to use. Additionally, Henry Ford's mass production techniques made gasoline vehicles significantly more affordable. As a result, electric vehicles nearly disappeared by 1935.

The environmental movement of the 1970s sparked renewed interest in electric cars. The 1973 oil crisis further emphasized the need for alternative fuel sources. Nevertheless, limitations in battery technology prevented widespread adoption.

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Today, companies like Tesla, Nissan, and Chevrolet are leading a revival of electric vehicles. Modern electric cars can travel over 300 miles on a single charge, compared to just 40 miles in the 1990s. Furthermore, charging infrastructure is expanding rapidly across the country, with over 100,000 public charging stations now available in the United States.

Despite these advancements, challenges remain. Electric vehicles are still more expensive than comparable gas-powered models, although prices are decreasing. Moreover, charging times are longer than refueling with gasoline, which can be inconvenient for long trips.

1. Identify two signal words or phrases in the passage that help you recognize the text structure.

2. How does the author organize information about electric cars from paragraph to paragraph?

3. Which text structure is primarily used in this passage? Provide evidence from the text.

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Types of Text Structures-**Answer Key**

1. Identify two signal words or phrases in the passage that help you recognize the text structure.

Signal words include: "first introduced," "by the early 1900s," "by 1935," "the 1970s," and "today." These time markers indicate chronological structure throughout the passage.

2. How does the author organize information about electric cars from paragraph to paragraph?

In time order, moving from invention to early popularity, decline, renewed interest in the 1970s, and finally current technology and challenges.

3. Which text structure is primarily used in this passage? Provide evidence from the text.

The passage primarily uses chronological/sequential structure, organizing information about electric cars from their invention in the 19th century through today's modern developments.