

**Macrostructure:
Analyzing Episodes**

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VDOE Training Webinar

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Note to Participants

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This webinar is the second in a
three part series on narrative
analysis available from the Virginia
Department of Education at
www.doe.virginia.gov

Brief Overview of Narration

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- **Macrostructure**
 - Story Grammar
 - Episodic Complexity
- **Microstructure**
 - Cohesion
 - Sentence Complexity
 - Lexical Diversity/Complexity

Episodic Structure

Minimally Complete, Complete,
and
Complex Episodic Structure

Macrostructure: Story Grammar

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- Setting (S)
- Episodes
 - Initiating Event (IE)
 - Internal Response (IR)
 - Plan (P)
 - Attempt (A)
 - Consequence (C)
 - Reaction (R)
- Ending (E)

Minimally Complete Episode

- Contains 3 elements of episodic structure:
 - Initiating Event (IE)
 - Attempt (A)
 - Consequence (C)
- Emerges around 4 to 6 years of age
- Is considered an incomplete episode if any of the three elements are missing

Complete Episode

- Contains at least 4 elements:
 - Initiating Event (IE)
 - At least two of the following:
 - Internal Response (IR),
 - Plan (P),
 - Attempt (A)
 - Consequence (C)

Complete Episode

- Contains at least 4 elements:
 - Initiating Event (IE)
 - At least two of the following: (IR), (P), (A)
 - Consequence (C)
- Reaction (R) (optional)
- Emerges around 7-8 years of age

Complex Episodic Structure

- Multiple episodes
 - More than one minimally complete episode
 - Emerges around 7 to 8 years of age
- Expanded complete episodes
 - Includes all elements of episodic structure
 - Emerges around 11 years of age
- Interactive episodes

Sample Narrative Analysis

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Examining
Story Grammar (SG) Elements

Bobby's Puppy

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Bobby had a puppy named Rex. Rex was big and liked to bark. Rex didn't listen. Bobby wanted Rex to be nice. Bobby asked his dad to train Rex. Rex learned to sit and be quiet. Bobby was happy. The End

Sample Analysis Format

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- One utterance per line
- Column for identification of SG Elements
- Column for Episodic Structure Notes

Transcript:	Story Grammar Element	Episodic Structure Notes
Bobby had a puppy named Rex.		
Rex was big and liked to bark.		
Rex didn't listen.		

Identify SG Elements

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- Identify the initiating event (IE).
- Identify the other components of SG:
 - IR, P, A, C, R
- There may be multiples of any elements

Transcript:	Story Grammar Element	Episodic Structure Notes
Bobby had a puppy named Rex.		
Rex was big and liked to bark.		
Rex didn't listen.		
Bobby wanted Rex to be nice.	IE	
Bobby asked his dad to train Rex.		
Rex learned to sit and be quiet.		
Bobby was happy.		
The End		

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Transcript:	Story Grammar Element	Episodic Structure Notes
Bobby had a puppy named Rex.	S	
Rex was big and liked to bark.	S	
Rex didn't listen.	S	
Bobby wanted Rex to be nice.	IE	
Bobby asked his dad to train Rex.		
Rex learned to sit and be quiet.		
Bobby was happy.		
The End		

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Transcript:	Story Grammar Element	Episodic Structure Notes
Bobby had a puppy named Rex.	S	
Rex was big and liked to bark.	S	
Rex didn't listen.	S	
Bobby wanted Rex to be nice.	IE	
Bobby asked his dad to train Rex.	A	
Rex learned to sit and be quiet.		
Bobby was happy.		
The End		

Transcript:	Story Grammar Element	Episodic Structure Notes
Bobby had a puppy named Rex.	S	
Rex was big and liked to bark.	S	
Rex didn't listen.	S	
Bobby wanted Rex to be nice.	IE	
Bobby asked his dad to train Rex.	A	
Rex learned to sit and be quiet.	C	
Bobby was happy.		
The End		

Transcript:	Story Grammar Element	Episodic Structure Notes
Bobby had a puppy named Rex.	S	
Rex was big and liked to bark.	S	
Rex didn't listen.	S	
Bobby wanted Rex to be nice.	IE	
Bobby asked his dad to train Rex.	A	
Rex learned to sit and be quiet.	C	
Bobby was happy.	R	
The End		

Transcript:	Story Grammar Element	Episodic Structure Notes
Bobby had a puppy named Rex.	S	
Rex was big and liked to bark.	S	
Rex didn't listen.	S	
Bobby wanted Rex to be nice.	IE	
Bobby asked his dad to train Rex.	A	
Rex learned to sit and be quiet.	C	
Bobby was happy.	R	
The End	E	

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Transcript:	Story Grammar Element	Episodic Structure Notes
Bobby had a puppy named Rex.	S	Minimally Complete Episode IE + A + C
Rex was big and liked to bark.	S	
Rex didn't listen.	S	
Bobby wanted Rex to be nice.	IE	
Bobby asked his dad to train Rex.	A	
Rex learned to sit and be quiet.	C	
Bobby was happy.	R	
The End	E	

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Examples Of Narrative Productions That Are Not Episodes

Descriptive Sequences

- Includes multiple setting statements
- Does not include minimal requirements of IE + A + C

“The three little pigs. There’s the first pig. And straw. Second pig. He’s got sticks. And the third pig. Big bad wolf in a fire. The end.”

Transcript	Story Grammar Element	Episodic Structure Notes
The three little pigs.		
There’s the first pig.		
And straw.		
Second pig.		
He’s got sticks.		
And the third pig.		
Big bad wolf in a fire.		
The end.		

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Transcript	Story Grammar Element	Episodic Structure Notes
The three little pigs.	S	
There’s the first pig.	S	
And straw.	S	
Second pig.	S	
He’s got sticks.	S	
And the third pig.	S	
Big bad wolf in a fire.	S	
The end.	E	

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Transcript	Story Grammar Element	Episodic Structure Notes
The three little pigs.	S	Not An Episode
There's the first pig.	S	
And straw.	S	
Second pig.	S	
He's got sticks.	S	Missing IE, A and C
And the third pig.	S	
Big bad wolf in a fire.	S	
The end.	E	

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Action Sequences

- Includes Setting + multiple attempts
- Does not include minimal requirements of IE + A + C

“The three little pigs were there. The first pig made a straw house. The second pig made a house from sticks. The third pig made his house with bricks. The end.”

Transcript	Story Grammar Element	Episodic Structure Notes
The three little pigs were there.		
The first pig made a straw house.		
The second pig made a house from sticks.		
The third pig made his house with bricks.		
The end.		

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Transcript	Story Grammar Element	Episodic Structure Notes
The three little pigs were there.	S	
The first pig made a straw house.	A	
The second pig made a house from sticks.	A	
The third pig made his house with bricks.	A	
The end.	E	

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Transcript	Story Grammar Element	Episodic Structure Notes
The three little pigs were there.	S	Not An Episode Missing IE
The first pig made a straw house.	A	
The second pig made a house from sticks.	A	
The third pig made his house with bricks.	A	
The end.	E	

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Reaction Sequences

- Includes Setting + initiating event + one or more attempts
- Does not include minimal requirements of IE + A + C

“The three little pigs lived with their mom. She said they needed a house. The first pig made his with straw. No good. The second pig used sticks. But the third little pig was smart. He made a house with bricks. The end.”

Transcript	Story Grammar Element	Episodic Structure Notes
The three little pigs lived with their mom.	S	
She said they needed a house.	IE	
The first pig made his with straw.	A	
No good.	R	
The second pig used sticks.	A	
But the third little pig was smart.	S	
He made a house with bricks.	A	
The end.	E	

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Transcript	Story Grammar Element	Episodic Structure Notes
The three little pigs lived with their mom.	S	Not An Episode
She said they needed a house.	IE	
The first pig made his with straw.	A	
No good.	R	
The second pig used sticks.	A	
But the third little pig was smart.	S	
He made a house with bricks.	A	
The end.	E	

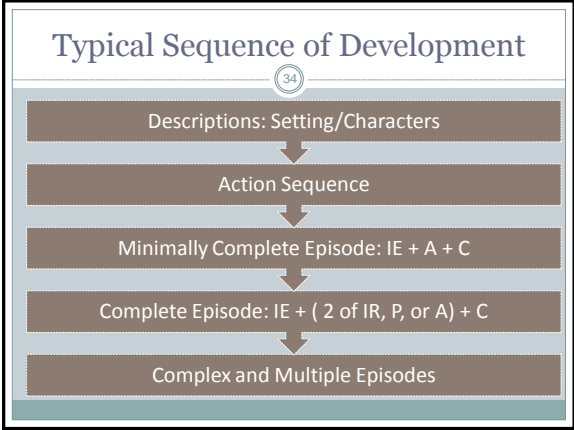
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Requirements of a Story

A story requires

Setting + Episodic Structure





Thank You for Participating

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A third webinar is available on
 Microstructure Analysis from
 the Virginia Department of
 Education

www.doe.virginia.gov
