

English 8

Unit 2: “Tech Then and Now” Review

1. **Asking Questions:** Remember, there is more to a story than the plot – it is also comes to your interpretation, which requires you to know how to ask questions. Remember, there are three kinds of questions you can ask about a text:
 - a) **Literal (On the Line) Questions:** Questions asked where the answer can be found directly in the text.
 - b) **Inferential (Between the Lines) Questions:** Questions where you have to connect clues or information from within the text to something you already know to get the answer. In other words, you make a conclusion or opinion out of known facts or evidence.
 - c) **Evaluative (Beyond the Lines) Questions:** These are questions which help you figure out the quality of a text as well as what the argument or point of view is. You are judging the text based on evidence from the text *and your own ideas*. These questions require deeper thought to answer.
 - See page 58 as well as “Paving from Plastic” (p. 59), “Rubber Shortage Leads to Silly Putty” (p. 62) and “Inspired to Invent” (p. 66) for more info and practice in asking questions.

2. **Organizing Ideas:** It is important for writers to have their texts organized in order to make the text easier to understand. Depending on the purpose, text can follow one or more of these **organizational patterns**:
 - a) **Sequence Pattern:** The text is written as a series of steps or events are told in order.
 - b) **Problem/Solution Pattern:** A problem occurs and one or more solutions suggested.
 - c) **Compare and Contrast Pattern:** Similarities and differences between two things/topics are described
 - d) **Description Pattern:** Characteristics of a topic are described.
 - e) **Generalization Pattern:** General statement made about a topic is made followed by support.
 - See p. 70 as well as “Future Visions: Yesterday versus Today” (p.71) and “Nano Doctors on Call” (p. 76) for more info and practice in organizing ideas.

3. **Evaluating Media Texts – Making Assumptions:** Assumptions are the things people take for granted when creating or reading text – like a hypothesis or best guess.
 - a) Creators of media texts are often influenced by their values these can be easily seen by the viewer, or sometimes they are not so obvious.
 - b) Consumers of media text choose what they will watch based on their values – not everybody agrees with the same message being portrayed.
 - c) Remember when viewing Media Text, you must not only look for what the text has in it, but *what is being left out* – sometimes, that is the real message.
 - See p. 86 as well as “Future Scapes: Cities of Tomorrow” (p. 88-89) for more info and practice in evaluating media texts.

4. **Narrative:** All narratives follow a basic plot structure which contain the following:
 - a) **Introduction (Exposition):** Characters, setting and conflict (problem) is introduced.
 - b) **Rising Action:** The series of events that help to develop the conflict.
 - c) **Climax:** The character succeeds or fails at solving the conflict.
 - d) **Falling Action:** The fast series of events which occur after the story’s climax.
 - e) **Resolution (Denouement):** The story’s ending or conclusion.
 - Subplots – additional plotlines that make the narrative more complex – a story within the story which usually gets resolved at the same time as the main story.
 - See p. 92 and The Zarg Tyranny (p. 93) for more info and practice on narrative.

