Activity B: Genre-based instruction: Building awareness of language patterns

Think about what you have learned about genres, and what you know about language that helps you recognize the purpose of each of these texts. Identify some of the specific language features that provide clues for you. Think about how understanding the genre can support students navigate new text. Feel free to work with others.

Example Texts:

1: Penguins live between the Equator and the South Pole. Some live where it’s very cold. Some live in warmer places like the coasts of Africa or Australia. Penguins live on islands, on coasts, and even on icebergs in the sea. They just need to be near water because they spend most of their lives IN the water.

2: The interaction that TV provides is a passive interaction, while books depend on the reader’s imagination and creativity to try to picture the contents of the novel. Unlike watching what the TV has to present, by allowing the reader to picture the story, this provides more of an active interaction with the responder. Consequently, this will lead to the expansion and development of a greater imagination, which will result in a creative person and a future leader.

3: When building a sustainable home consider the relationship between windows, sunlight and use. For example, a house loses and gains heat through its windows. The north side of the house gets little or no sunlight, so the windows could be smaller for rooms that are used less frequently during the day. The south side of the house can have large windows to allow light, reducing the need for indoor lights, and to allow the warm of the sun to enter.

4: As they approached the island they hoped would provide sanctuary, Cork’s feet touched rock. He found footing, and he and Jenny eased the raft to shore. “I’ll hold,” Cork whispered. “You take the baby.” Jenny grasped the wicker basket and lifted it. Cork watched for the small eyes to blink open, but they didn’t. He grabbed the stove and the bundled blanket and led the way into the trees.

Identify the genre: What do you think is the primary purpose of this text? (HINT: to inform, entertain, persuade, explain?)

What language clues are you noticing that help you determine the type of text?