



ELA Virtual Learning

English II

April 27, 2020



English II

Lesson: April 27, 2020

Objective/Learning Target:

- I can analyze how an author's choices in story structure impact the reader.

BELL RINGER

A The night was calm, but a storm -- full of rain and budding anger -- began to swell in the distance.

B John felt excited. After all, it was his sixteenth birthday.

C Mrs. Peabody saw him snake through the yard from her kitchen window. And that's what she told police during the missing person investigation.

D John was grounded, but snuck out the back door. The door's creak seemed louder than a siren.

Timing is everything, especially when it comes to writing and storytelling. But what if your timing is off?

Take a look at the story details to the left. Place the lettered sections in order from lowest point of tension to the highest and answer the prompt below in a quick write:

- Why does this order create the most amount of tension? Explain.



BELL RINGER ANSWER KEY *(Answers will vary)*

- B** John felt excited. After all, it was his sixteenth birthday.
- D** John was grounded, but snuck out the back door. The door's creak seemed louder than a siren.
- A** The night was calm, but a storm -- full of rain and budding anger -- began to swell in the distance.
- C** Mrs. Peabody saw him snake through the yard from her kitchen window. And that's what she told police during the missing person investigation.

Our story begins with a character, likely our protagonist, named John. We learn it's his 16th birthday, a milestone for many teenagers but not a whole lot of tension so it may come first.

Looks like John has gotten himself into trouble in the past and the tension rises a bit because he is breaking the rules.

After sneaking out, John notices the sky which is calm but there is a mean storm brewing in the distance. Foreshadowing, perhaps? This ominous symbol ratchets up the tension a lot!

Here at the end of this paragraph we learn John has gone missing with no real leads concerning his disappearance. Did he run away? Was he kidnapped? Is he okay? This detail takes the story's tension to a whole new level!



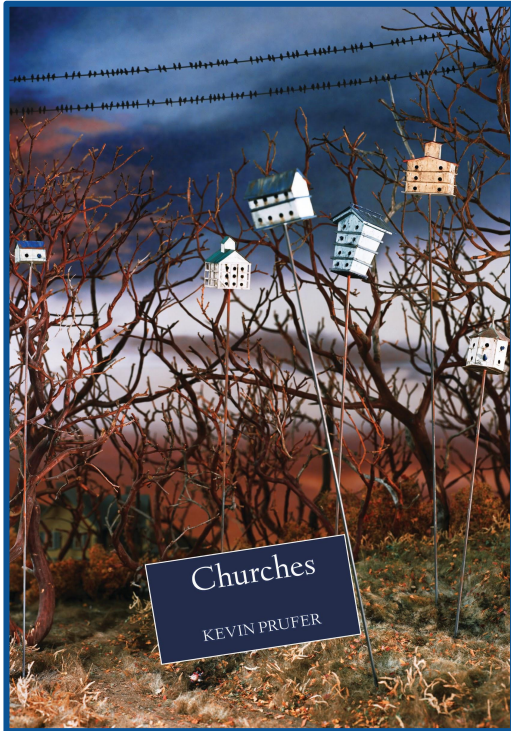
LEARN

Congratulations! If you completed the bell work, you've helped demonstrate the importance of **narrative structure** in literature. Below are some helpful definitions for today's lesson.

Narrative structure is the underlying framework showing the relationship between events in a story. There are two basic types of narrative structure.

- **Linear structure** is when the events in a story are arranged in chronological order, or the order in which they happened. *For example, When Katie was nine years old she almost drowned in a lake. As a teenager, her friends want to go swimming but she refuses.*
- **Nonlinear structure** is when the events in a story are arranged by another method (cause-effect, compare-contrast, etc.) and not in chronological order. *For example, Katie is swimming with friends, but pauses at the water's edge while her friends dive in around her. We see a flashback where Katie almost drowned in a lake as a child.*

PRACTICE



Now that we have reviewed the main types of **narrative structure**, let's practice identifying point-of-view and its significance in a poem.

Use the information from slide 5 to analyze the narrative structure in Kevin Pruffer's poem "Churches".

After you've read, answer the prompt below. Make sure to include textual evidence:

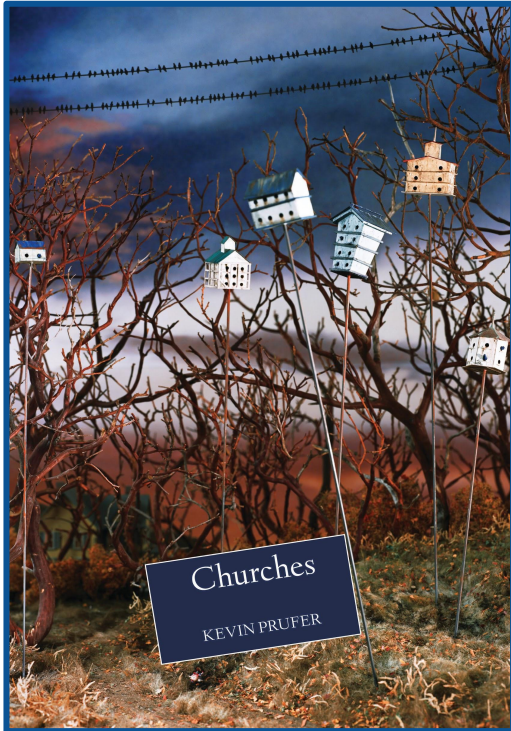
- **Is this narrative structure linear or nonlinear? Explain.**
- **What impact does this narrative structure have on the reader?**



PRACTICE ANSWER KEY *(Answers will vary)*

- **Check your answer to make sure your response meets the following criteria:**
 - Did you write in complete sentences and answer the questions?
 - Did you use standard conventions (spelling, punctuation, grammar)?
 - Did you provide a claim, textual evidence, and explanation?
 - Did you provide an in-text citation for your evidence?

PRACTICE ANSWER KEY *(Answers will vary)*



Is this narrative structure linear or nonlinear? What overall impact does this narrative structure have on the reader?

In his poem "Churches" Kevin Pruffer uses a nonlinear narrative structure to help the reader understand the father and son's state of mind as they sift through their memories together.

The poem begins with the narrator as a boy, watching a girl turn a postcard rack furiously when the postcards begin "rising from the rack / turning in the air...and then the air was full of pictures / all of them shouting" (lines 23-29). This first scene sets up the pattern of how memories, like the postcards, rush at us in a flurry, first rising, then turning, and finally, shouting in our minds.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Narrative Structure

- [Narrative Structure: Linear, Nonlinear, & Interactive](#)

Essay Writing and Poetry

- [Quoting Poetry \(MLA 8th Ed.\)](#)

“Churches” by Kevin Prufer



EXTENDED ACTIVITY

Want more practice with **narrative structure**? Watch the clip provided and answer the questions below:

Pixar's *Up* begins with a young boy and girl meeting. We quickly see them grow up, marry, and grow old together.

As you watch, answer these questions:

- **What type of narrative structure is this?**
- **The events in this clip span decades but are displayed in a matter of minutes. Why does the film do this?**
- **What overall impact does this clip have on the audience after watching it?**





REFLECTION

Today's learning targets are listed below:

- 1. I can analyze how an author's choices in story structure impact the reader.**

On a scale of 1-5, how confident do you feel with each of today's learning targets?
What did you struggle on? What did you understand the best?

1 = I still need to work on it
5 = I know I've mastered it!