

Story Structure Levels, Ordered From Least to Most Complex		
<i>Story Structure Level</i>	<i>Developmental Age</i>	<i>Description</i>
Descriptive Sequence	Preschool	Describes a character, surrounding, and actions with no time order or causal relationships.
Action Sequence	Preschool	Lists actions chronologically, but no causal relationships.
Reactive Sequence	Preschool	Series of events, each of which triggers the next event. No planning involved and no clear goal-directed behavior.
Abbreviated Episode	Age 6	Provides goal of character, but does not explicitly state a plan to achieve the goal. The listener must infer the plan
Incomplete Episode	Age 7-8	States a plan, but one of essential story grammar piece is missing.
Complete Episode		A complete story with character, setting, problem, and solution. It may reflect evidence of a plan to reach the goal.
Multiple Episodes		A connection of sequences that can include a combination of complete and incomplete episodes.
Complex Episode	Age 11	Includes elaboration of a complete episode that might include: multiple plans or consequences, or an obstacle for the character(s) to conquer.
Embedded Episode	Age 11 -12	Embeds a complete episode or sequence within another full episode.
7b. Interactive Episodes		Describes one set of events from two different perspectives, with the characters influencing each other.

Adapted from Glenn and Stein (1980); Hedberg and Westby (1993), Liles (1987)