TEXT FEATURES

Text features help you locate important information in a text. Knowing the purpose of the text feature helps you decide at which text feature to look when you want to understand your text better. Organized by purpose, the chart identifies text features and how they help the reader.

PURPOSE: TO UNDERSTAND WORDS AND VOCABULARY USE	
Feature	**Helps the Reader…**
Bold Print	Identify important information
Colored Print	Identify important information
Glossary	Define words
Italics	Identify important information
Pronunciation Guide	Say the words

PURPOSE: TO EXPAND THE MEANING OF THE TEXT	
Feature	**Helps the Reader…**
Appendix	Understand ideas in more depth
Overlays	Understand additional information in relation to other information
Preface	Set a purpose for reading; have an overview of the text
Sidebars/Textbox	Gather additional or explanatory information

PURPOSE: TO LOCATE KEY IDEAS	
Feature	**Helps the Reader…**
Table of Contents	Locate topics in the book and the order they are presented
Index	Locate key ideas in the text with an alphabetical list with page numbers
Titles	Understand what the text is about
Headings	Identify topics within the text
Subheadings	Identify topics within a larger topic
Bullets	Identify key ideas
Captions	Understand an illustration
Labels	Identify an illustration and/or its parts

PURPOSE: TO REPRESENT INFORMATION	
Feature	**Helps the Reader…**
Photographs	Understand exactly what something looks like
Drawings	Understand what something could or might have looked like or see a simpler version of something more complex
Graphs/Charts/Diagrams	Understand information in relation to other information
Maps	Understand geographical, political, or historical features
Timelines	Understand the chronological order of events
Magnification	See detail in an illustration

Text Feature Scavenger Hunt

Locate text features within a variety of texts and identify in which text you found it, the page number, which section of the text you found it, and how it helps you as a reader.

Text Feature	Title of Text	Page Number	Section of the Text	Helps the Reader