Building Body Paragraphs Using the Jane Schaffer Chunking Technique

Language Arts 7—Kaye

Halloween—one of our Nation’s most beloved “holidays”—is a magical time, filled with fun for all ages. While some are in it for the cute costumes and candy, my son Dean & I prefer the shock ‘n awe route, grounded in invoking horror and fear. Our front yard is transformed annually into a haunted cemetery, lined with ghouls rising from the earth, tombstones of all shapes and sizes, and wrought iron fencing, guarded by an ominous crow. We take pride in creating a professional experience for the trick-or-treaters of our neighborhood and relish in the opportunity to add to our collection each year. If the effects and decorations aren’t realistic and scary, they don’t pass muster. This Halloween, we’re kicking it up a notch by introducing new elements to our Haunted Garage experience.

Topic Sentence (TS)

* controls focus of body paragraph
* declares subject + opinion

Concrete Details (CD)\*

* explicit observables
* descriptive details
* outside (others can see)
* facts & stats

-What I read

-What I see/saw

-What I do/did

-What someone else says/said (dialogue)

* MNF example: Pat Summerall is the play-by-play guy

Commentary (CM)\*

* my opinion/s
* idea/s I have
* feelings & emotions
* inside (others won’t know unless I reveal)
* MNF example: John Madden is the color commentator

**\* Chunk: The CD & CM work together to provide supporting examples and expand upon the TS. NOTE: Desired Chunk Ratio is 2+(CD):1 (CM)**

Concluding Sentence (CS)

* reflection of topic sentence, without being redundant
* wraps up paragraph
* provides transition into next body paragraph