Recognizing Text Relay

Introduction: In the fifth grade, students are responsible for recognizing and distinguishing between different types of text. While participating in this activity, students will recognize different types of text and race to the finish line. It is an enjoyable activity.

Grade Level and Subject: Fifth Grade Reading and P.E.

TEKS: Reading 12G
P.E. 1B, 1C, 3A, 7A

Materials: 5 × 7 index cards (enough for every student in the class), safety pins, markers, chalk, whistle

Activity: After a thorough discussion and practice of different types of text, students can participate in this activity.

Before going to the playground, the class should have a discussion on the types of text they want represented in this activity. The class should unanimously choose five of the following types of text to use during the activity: stories, poems, myths, fables, tall tales, limericks, plays, biographies, autobiographies. The teacher should then find short excerpts (2–3 of each) from each of the five chosen text types to use on the playground. He or she may find the excerpts from textbooks, library books, magazines, or from information found on the computer.

The students will be placed in groups of five. Each student will obtain a 5 × 7 index card and a marker from the teacher. After a discussion among group members, each student will develop a card to be used on the playground. It will have the name of one of the types of text written on it with marker. When the group has finished, each card should have the name of one of the five different types of text. There should be no duplicates. These cards should be handed in to the teacher, and the activity is ready to begin.

The students should go to the playground. The teacher will draw a starting line and a finish line with the chalk. The lines should be parallel and anywhere from 30–60 feet apart. The teacher will distribute the cards to each group. Each member of the group of five will receive a card with a different type of text written on it. The cards can be secured to the front of the students’ shirts with safety pins. The students will then stand at the starting line with other members of their group.

To begin, the teacher will read aloud an excerpt of one of the types of text chosen by the students. When the teacher finishes reading, the members of the group will have 15 seconds (this amount is flexible) to discuss what type of text is being read. When the teacher blows the whistle, all discussion will cease among the group members. The teacher will then blow the whistle a second time to signify the beginning of the relay. The student from each group with the
card depicting the correct type of text will race to the finish line. Once a student from each group has crossed the finish line, the teacher will read the passage (or excerpt) again. The teacher should check each student to observe what the card says on his or her shirt. All correct choices get a point while the groups with the incorrect choices get a short, speedy block of instruction as to why the type of text they chose was incorrect. The teacher will determine when the relay race should end.

**Evaluation:** The teacher will give a speedy, small block of instruction to those who are still unsure of which type of text is being read by the teacher.