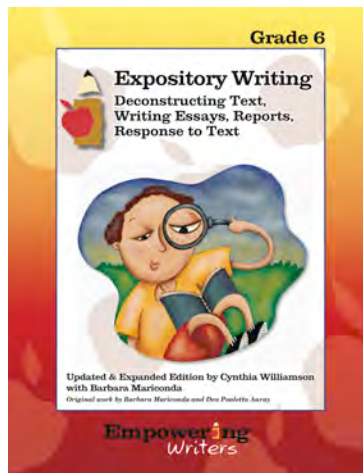




**Grade 6**  
**Expository Writing**  
**Deconstructing Text, Writing Essays, Reports, Response to Text**

**Student Pages for Print or Projection**

**SECTION 2: Broad Yet Distinct Main Ideas**  
**Part 2**



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Name \_\_\_\_\_

## PREPARING TO WRITE A RESPONSE TO TEXT

You've read the text titled Hawaiian History, pp. 81-82. In response to this text, choose two of the three islands referred to in the text and describe at least two of the historical landmarks found there. Be sure to use evidence from the text to support your response.

1. Underline the **given elements** in this writing assignment.
2. What are the **variable elements** in this writing assignment - in other words, what decision do you need to make as the author?
3. Skim and scan the text and **write a summarizing framework** for this piece:  
**TOPIC:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**MAIN IDEA #1:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**MAIN IDEA #2:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**MAIN IDEA #3:** \_\_\_\_\_
4. In your summarizing framework, **circle the Main Ideas** that will be most helpful in crafting your response. Locate and **circle those paragraphs in the text**.
5. What **text conventions** can help guide your response?
6. After you've located the paragraphs that describe the historical sites on the islands you've chosen, **highlight the descriptive details that you'll want to include in your response in the text**. For your first body paragraph, use a yellow highlighter. Then, highlight the details for your second body paragraph in pink.
7. Write a **topic sentence** using the given elements that you underlined as your "topic."
8. Write a **main idea sentence** for both of the islands that you selected.
9. Use **citing sentence starters** to reference evidence in the text:
  - In the text titled Hawaiian History we learn that \_\_\_\_\_ .
  - In the third paragraph the author describes \_\_\_\_\_ .
  - It is interesting to note that \_\_\_\_\_ .
  - The author claims that \_\_\_\_\_ .
  - It's clear that \_\_\_\_\_ .
  - The text also explores \_\_\_\_\_ .

## PREPARING TO WRITE A RESPONSE TO TEXT

You've read the text titled Hawaiian History, pp. 81-82. In response to this text, choose two of the three islands referred to in the text and describe at least two of the historical landmarks found there. Be sure to use evidence from the text to support your response.

1. Underline the **given elements** in this writing assignment. Hawaiian historical landmarks
2. What are the **variable elements** in this writing assignment - in other words, what decision do you need to make as the author? which 2 islands
3. Skim and scan the text and **write a summarizing framework** for this piece:
 

TOPIC: Hawaiian History

MAIN IDEA #1: Pearl Harbor

MAIN IDEA #2: Whaling history

MAIN IDEA #3: Early Polynesian Settlements
4. In your summarizing framework, **circle the Main Ideas** that will be most helpful in crafting your response. Locate and **circle those paragraphs in the text**.  
*Answers will vary.*
5. What **text conventions** can help guide your response? italicized key words and phrases
6. After you've located the paragraphs that describe the historical sites on the islands you've chosen, **highlight the descriptive details that you'll want to include in your response in the text**. For your first body paragraph, use a yellow highlighter. Then, highlight the details for your second body paragraph in pink. *Examples will vary.*
7. Write a **topic sentence** using the given elements that you underlined as your "topic."  
*Ex. Every island of Hawaii has its own historical landmarks.*
8. Write a **main idea sentence** for both of the islands that you selected.  
*Ex. Attacked by the Japanese in 1941, Pearl Harbor is located on the island of Oahu.*  
*Maui was a major whaling port from 1825 and 1860.*
9. Use **citing sentence starters** to reference evidence in the text:
  - In the text titled Hawaiian History we learn that \_\_\_\_\_ .
  - In the third paragraph the author describes \_\_\_\_\_ .
  - It is interesting to note that \_\_\_\_\_ .
  - The author claims that \_\_\_\_\_ .
  - It's clear that \_\_\_\_\_ .
  - The text also explores \_\_\_\_\_ .

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## EXEMPLAR TEXT

**Ex. Summarizing Framework:**

**TOPIC:** Hawaiian historical landmarks

**Main Idea #1:** Oahu

**Main Idea #2:** Maui

### Hawaiian History

Every island of Hawaii has its own rich history. The text Hawaiian History explores the landmarks of three of those islands, including Oahu and Maui.

Attacked by the Japanese in 1941, Pearl Harbor is located on the island of Oahu. In the second paragraph of the text, the author takes us to this historic island to revisit a dark day in history. The text describes the World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument, which gives visitors the opportunity to “hear the voices of survivors who share their accounts of that horrifying day in recorded oral histories.” The article goes on to explain that you can also go aboard the U.S. Missouri, the battleship upon which the Japanese surrendered to General Douglas MacArthur in 1945 or visit the Pacific Aviation Museum.

Maui was a major whaling port from 1825–1860. As the text continues, the author describes the whaling village of Lahaina on this small island. From the text, we learn that this was a bustling port during the Golden Age of Whaling. One landmark described in the text is a tiny jail built back in the early 1800s where misbehaving whalers were shackled to the walls. Another historic site is the Seaman’s Hospital where sick and injured sailors were treated. The author goes on to explore the collections at the Whaler’s Village Museum, including the scale model of a whaling ship, and explain that “scrimshaw” is a picture carved onto a piece of whale bone or tooth.

## EXEMPLAR TEXT

**Ex. Summarizing Framework:****TOPIC:** Hawaiian historical landmarks**Main Idea #1:** Oahu**Main Idea #2:** MauiHawaiian History

Every island of Hawaii has its own rich history. The text Hawaiian History explores the landmarks of three of those islands, including Oahu and Maui. topic sentence

Attacked by the Japanese in 1941, Pearl Harbor is located on the island of Oahu. main idea  
In the second paragraph of the text, the author takes us to this historic island to revisit a dark day in history. The text describes the World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument, which gives visitors the opportunity to "hear the voices of survivors who share their accounts of that horrifying day in recorded oral histories."  
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As the text continues, the author describes the whaling village of Lahaina on this small island. From the text, we learn that this was a bustling port during the Golden Age of Whaling. One landmark described in the text is a tiny jail built back in the early 1800s where misbehaving whalers were shackled to the walls. Another historic site is the Seaman's Hospital where sick and injured sailors were treated. The author goes on to explore the collections at the Whaler's Village Museum, including the scale model of a whaling ship, and explain that "scrimshaw" is a picture carved onto a piece of whale bone or tooth.

Notice use of sentence starters to reference text.



Name \_\_\_\_\_

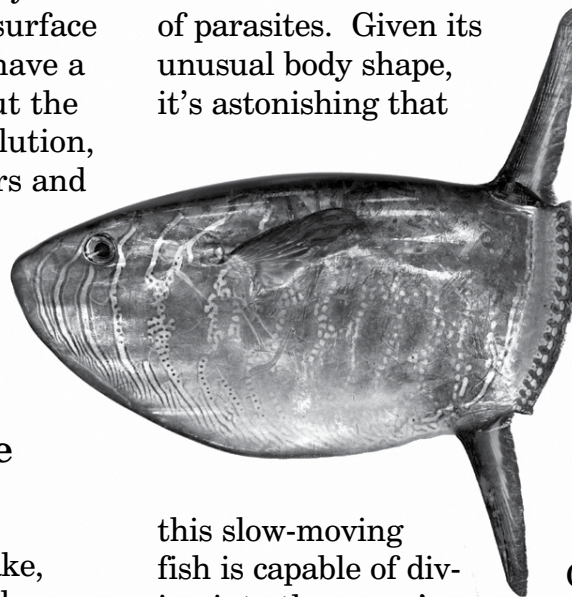
# The Ocean Sunfish

Where's the other half of it? That might be the first thought to cross your mind if you ever spot an ocean sunfish peacefully basking on the surface of the sea. We have a lot to learn about the appearance, evolution, feeding behaviors and conservation of this oversized oddball!

## Ocean Sunfish Are Strange Looking!

Flat as a pancake, these strange fish resemble a huge, floating head. The average sunfish is about 10 feet long and weighs 2,000 pounds, but these sun-loving swimmers are capable of growing to twice that size. With no tail, but dorsal fins on its back that soar up to 6 feet in height and an even longer ventral fin jutting from its stomach, they are as tall as they are wide.

Known for their large eyes and cartoonishly puckered lips, these marine eccentrics have no scales, but pale, rubbery skin that attracts a host of parasites. Given its unusual body shape, it's astonishing that



this slow-moving fish is capable of diving into the ocean's depths, migrating for long distances and actually leaping acrobatically from the water.

## A Mysterious Evolutionary Journey?

The ocean sunfish is one of the youngest species in the ocean. It is believed to have emerged a mere 40 million years ago as a small coral reef fish,

like the puffer and the porcupine fish. While officially classified as a bony fish, its bones have no calcium, a fact that confounds marine biologists. Some

are convinced that the unusual marine creature has more common with sharks and rays, who have an internal skeleton made of cartilage, than they do with bony fish. Also like sharks and rays, the ocean sunfish lacks the swim bladder that other fish rely on to help it stay submerged. Could it be that the ocean sunfish started its evolutionary journey as a bony fish, but is continuing on as a cartilaginous species? It's definitely possible.

## Jellyfish, Big and Small: A Mainstay Of The Ocean Sunfish Diet.

With lush lips made for exactly that purpose, ocean sunfish spend

much of their time slurping up jellyfish. They are, in fact, one of the very few ocean creatures who feed on these tentacled terrors. A thick lining in their digestive tract allows them to do so without getting stung. This protective anatomical feature also allows it to snack on brittle starfish and chow down on crabs, shell and all. One more amazing fact about this gentle giant is that it has the unlikely ability to zero in on the most nutrient rich parts of the jellyfish and avoid the less nutritious components!

## Conservation Status Of The Ocean Sunfish

A stable and sustainable population of ocean sunfish swim in seas from Australia to North America today, however, there are some concerns about the future of this quirky fish. When they float on the surface of the ocean, they are vulnerable to injury from motorboats. While not commercially fished, these captivating curiosities become entangled in gill nets and killed.

Alarmingly, in the waters off the southern California coast, the leviathans are the most common “bycatch,” which means fish caught in nets intended to capture other species. Plastic debris, which looks a lot like jellyfish when floating in the open sea, poses another danger to the weird and wonderful creatures.

Wouldn't you love to see an ocean sunfish? Do you think they're evolving into a cartilaginous species? Can you believe they're able to eat jellyfish?



Aren't you relieved that a healthy number of these immense animals live in our oceans today? For sure, the ocean sunfish is one-of-a-kind.



# The Ocean Sunfish

Intro

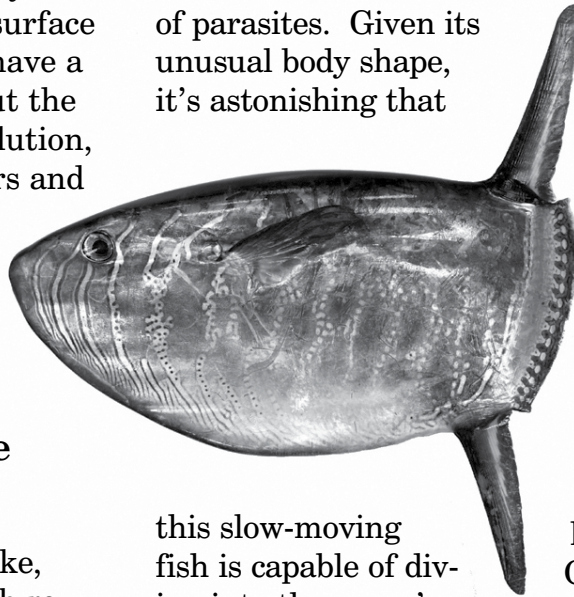
1.) Where's the other half of it? That might be the first thought to cross your mind if you ever spot an ocean sunfish peacefully basking on the surface of the sea. We have a lot to learn about the appearance, evolution, feeding behaviors and conservation of this oversized oddball!

## Ocean Sunfish Are Strange Looking!

appearance

2.) Flat as a pancake, these strange fish resemble a huge, floating head. The average sunfish is about 10 feet long and weighs 2,000 pounds, but these sun-loving swimmers are capable of growing to twice that size. With no tail, but dorsal fins on its back that soar up to 6 feet in height and an even longer ventral fin jutting from its stomach, they are as tall as they are wide.

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3.) The ocean sunfish is one of the youngest species in the ocean. It is believed to have emerged a mere 40 million years ago as a small coral reef fish,

evolution

like the puffer and the porcupine fish. While officially classified as a bony fish, its bones have no calcium, a fact that confounds marine biologists. Some

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## Jellyfish, Big and Small: A Mainstay Of The Ocean Sunfish Diet.

diet/food

4.) With lush lips made for exactly that purpose, ocean sunfish spend



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## Conservation Status Of The Ocean Sunfish

5.) A stable and sustainable population of ocean sunfish swim in seas from Australia to North America today, however, there are some concerns about the future of this quirky fish. When they float on the surface of the ocean, they are vulnerable to injury from motorboats. While not commercially fished, these captivating curiosities become entangled in gill nets and killed.

conservation

Alarming, in the waters off the southern California coast, the leviathans are the most common “bycatch,” which means fish caught in nets intended to capture other species. Plastic debris, which looks a lot like jellyfish when floating in the open sea, poses another danger to the weird and wonderful creatures.

6.) Wouldn't you love to see an ocean sunfish? Do you think they're evolving into a cartilaginous species? Can you believe they're able to eat jellyfish?

conclusion



Aren't you relieved that a healthy number of these immense animals live in our oceans today? For sure, the ocean sunfish is one-of-a-kind.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## The Legend of the Mola Mola

Matt and I had been on the island for two or three days. Or was it a week? It's easy to lose track of time when you're stranded on a deserted tropical island.

Our adventure started off as a luxurious trip with mom and dad to a gorgeous South Pacific island. For the first couple of days of our vacation, we were content to bask in the sun and swim in the clear, calm waters. But, after a few such relaxing days, Matt and I were up for a little something more.

"Hey, let's go sailing," I suggested.

"Great idea, Tyler!" said Matt.

"Be careful out there," our Mom called after us as we caught a gentle breeze and sailed away in our small rented vessel. We waved at her, feeling impatient with her concerns. After all, we'd both been sailing since we were little kids and now Matt was 16 and I was 13.

Long story short, we got caught in freakish sudden gale. The rain fell in big stinging drops onto our bare skin while a lashing wind propelled us at breakneck speed further and further from shore until we lost sight of land. When the storm finally passed, we were hopelessly lost at sea, wearing just our surfer shorts and without even a water bottle or a tube of sunscreen. We were in trouble. Major trouble.

I felt a rush of relief when Matt first spotted the small island and we set sail for its sandy shore. I figured we'd surely be rescued in a day or two, and until then, Matt would know what to do.

But hopes began to fade after long, sweaty days and hot, still nights on the island. Luckily, we'd found a waterfall flowing with clear, cool water in the thicket of palm trees and rocky outcroppings near the beach and built ourselves a shelter out of big tropical fronds. Our big problem was food.

We'd tried digging for clams or crabs, standing in the shallow water and poking at the sand with sticks but came up with nothing.

"What are we going to do?" Matt asked, defeat etched into his sunburned face and a single tear running down his flushed, burning cheeks.

"Make fishing poles," I said, sounding much more confident than I felt. Seeing my brother cry sent a tingle of terror down my spine. He'd always been the brave one.

"How?" Matt asked. "And what'll we use for bait?"

I shrugged. "We've got to try."

Hoping I'd come up with an idea while I worked, I fashioned a clunky fishing pole out of a stick and unraveled the drawstring from my shorts to create line. Still, I had no idea what to do about a hook or bait.

As the moon rose in the sky, Matt managed to sleep, but hunger kept me wide awake. I paced along the beach, trying to come up with an idea to save us from starvation, but my mind kept wandering off to torment me with a vision of a vat of spaghetti and meatballs sprinkled with grated cheese.

Suddenly, I saw a large, pale form floating in the water. I waded out for a closer look and thought I'd probably gone delirious from hunger. Were my eyes playing tricks on me, or was it really the huge, floating face of a gigantic fish who must have tangled with a shark and gotten its tail bitten off? No kidding. That's what it looked like.

I was wondering if it was edible when a bright light filled the sky. The silence of the night was filled with the sound of a helicopter whirring. It came closer and closer.

"Matt! Matt!" I shouted, filled with an indescribable joy. "Matt, we're saved!"

Back at the resort, I asked Alomaha, an island native who worked at the hotel, about the odd fish face I'd seen floating in the sea on the night of our rescue.

Alomaha's eyes lit up as I described it. "Mola Mola," he said, excitedly. "You saw a Mola Mola!"

"Mola Mola?"

"Yes, also known as an ocean sunfish," Alomaha said, proudly. "Legend around these islands is that Mola Mola always bring good luck."

"You can say that again!"

"Mola Mola always bring good luck," Alomaha said, with a bright smile.

As I look back on my adventure at sea, my clearest memory is of a Mola Mola glowing pale and huge in the moonlight. I wish I'd had the chance to say "thank you."

## The Legend of the Mola Mola

entertaining  
beginning

title  
Narrative piece

Matt and I had been on the island for two or three days. Or was it a week? It's easy to lose track of time when you're stranded on a deserted tropical island.

description of setting

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suspense

"Be careful out there," our Mom called after us as we caught a gentle breeze and sailed away in our small rented vessel. We waved at her, feeling impatient with her concerns. After all, we'd both been sailing since we were little kids and now Matt was 16 and I was 13.

main event

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As I look back on my adventure at sea, my clearest memory is of a Mola Mola glowing pale and huge in the moonlight. I wish I'd had the chance to say "thank you."

main event (cont.)

situation heading to conclusion

conclusion

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## PREPARING TO WRITE A RESPONSE TO TEXT

You've read two very different texts about a weird and wonderful fish, The Ocean Sunfish and The Legend of the Mola Mola. Write an essay comparing these two texts. Be sure to address the differences in genre, organization, and author's purpose. Also, describe at least one key characteristic in each text that is unique to the genre.

1. Underline the **given elements** in this writing assignment.
2. What are the **variable elements** in this writing assignment - in other words, what decision do you need to make as the author?
3. **Annotate and Analyze** The Ocean Sunfish and **write a summarizing framework** for this piece.

**TOPIC:** \_\_\_\_\_

**MAIN IDEA #1:** \_\_\_\_\_

**MAIN IDEA #2:** \_\_\_\_\_

**MAIN IDEA #3:** \_\_\_\_\_

**MAIN IDEA #4:** \_\_\_\_\_

**What is the genre of this piece?** \_\_\_\_\_

**What is the author's purpose?** \_\_\_\_\_

**How do you know?** \_\_\_\_\_

**What prewriting tool did the author use to shape this text?** \_\_\_\_\_

4. Fill in the summarizing framework below for The Legend of the Mola Mola.

- This story is about \_\_\_\_\_
- The problem was that \_\_\_\_\_
- His problem was solved when \_\_\_\_\_
- What is the genre of this piece? \_\_\_\_\_
- What is the author's purpose? \_\_\_\_\_
- How do you know? \_\_\_\_\_
- What prewriting tool did the author use to shape this text? \_\_\_\_\_

5. Name one characteristic you'll describe in the narrative story. Highlight this in yellow.

---

6. Name one characteristic you'll describe in the expository text. Highlight this in pink.

---

7. Write a **topic sentence** based on what the prompt is asking.

---

---

8. Write **two main idea sentences**, one for your description of the key characteristics in the expository text and another for the narrative text.

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9. Use **citing sentence starters** to reference evidence in the text:

- In the first text the author used \_\_\_\_\_ .
- Another major difference is that \_\_\_\_\_ .
- You can recognize a narrative piece by \_\_\_\_\_ .
- In the second text it's clear that \_\_\_\_\_ .
- The organizational strategy \_\_\_\_\_ .
- The author's purpose was \_\_\_\_\_ .

## PREPARING TO WRITE A RESPONSE TO TEXT

You've read two very different texts about a weird and wonderful fish, The Ocean Sunfish and The Legend of the Mola Mola. Write an essay comparing these two texts. Be sure to address the differences in genre, organization, and author's purpose. Also, describe at least one key characteristic in each text that is unique to the genre.

1. Underline the **given elements** in this writing assignment. *compare the two texts - genre, organization and author's purpose*
2. What are the **variable elements** in this writing assignment - in other words, what decision do you need to make as the author? *which key characteristic of each genre to describe*
3. **Annotate and Analyze** The Ocean Sunfish and write a summarizing framework for this piece.

TOPIC: The Ocean Sunfish

MAIN IDEA #1: appearance

MAIN IDEA #2: evolution

MAIN IDEA #3: feeding behavior

MAIN IDEA #4: conservation

What is the genre of this piece? expository

What is the author's purpose? to inform

How do you know? The text provides information and facts about the topic and organizes this information according to a number of broad yet distinct main ideas followed by details.

What prewriting tool did the author use to shape this text? Expository pillar

4. Fill in the summarizing framework below for The Legend of the Mola Mola.
  - This story is about Tyler and Matt, brothers and their trip to the South Pacific
  - The problem was that Tyler and Matt go stranded on a desert island
  - His problem was solved when they are rescued after spotting a good luck charm in the water.
  - What is the genre of this piece? narrative
  - What is the author's purpose? to entertain
  - How do you know? The text focuses on a character in a setting facing and solving a problem
  - What prewriting tool did the author use to shape this text? narrative diamond



5. Name one characteristic you'll describe in the narrative story. Highlight this in yellow.

Possible responses: characters, problem, solution, dialogue, a significant main event, etc.

6. Name one characteristic you'll describe in the expository text. Highlight this in pink.

Possible responses: focus on a topic, introduction, headings, photographs, conclusion

7. Write a **topic sentence** based on what the prompt is asking.

The two texts we read, *The Ocean Sunfish* and *The Legend of the Mola Mola* differ in genre, organization, and purpose

8. Write **two main idea sentences**, one for your description of the key characteristics in the expository text and another for the narrative text.

Ex. • One of the key characteristics of the expository piece is the text conventions – bold main idea headings.

• The most significant characteristic of the narrative text is the focus on a character.

9. Use **citing sentence starters** to reference evidence in the text:

- In the first text the author used \_\_\_\_\_ .
- Another major difference is that \_\_\_\_\_ .
- You can recognize a narrative piece by \_\_\_\_\_ .
- In the second text it's clear that \_\_\_\_\_ .
- The organizational strategy \_\_\_\_\_ .
- The author's purpose was \_\_\_\_\_ .

## EXEMPLAR TEXT

## Ex. SUMMARIZING FRAMEWORK

**TOPIC:** Difference between Two Texts

**Main Idea #1:** The Ocean Sunfish

**Main Idea #2:** The Legend of Mola Mola

Intro

The two texts we read are different in terms of genre, organization, and author's purpose. The Ocean Sunfish is an expository text while The Legend of the Mola Mola is a narrative story.

There are many key characteristics that the author includes in The Ocean Sunfish that tell us that the genre is informative or expository. The text focuses on the topic of a large and fascinating fish and it is organized into main ideas followed by details. Each main idea is summarized in a short subheading before each body paragraph. Another characteristic of informative texts is that all of the sentences that follow the main idea sentence relate to it. These details explain and support the main idea. For example, following the main idea of paragraph 5 "conservation status of the ocean sunfish," we learn that the fish is not currently endangered and read details about the threats to the future of the species, including getting struck by motorboats, choking on plastic and becoming entangled in gill nets. All of these informative details are specific examples of the main idea: "conservation status of the ocean sunfish."

The Legend of the Mola Mola is a very different type of text. This narrative story focuses on a character named Tyler and his older brother Matt. It takes place on a tropical island in the South Pacific. Like all narrative stories, it includes action, description, dialogue, and the main character's (sometimes called the point of view character) feelings. It is organized very differently than the expository text, following a beginning, middle, and ending format. The story begins with an entertaining beginning in which the point of view character (Tyler) describes his family's luxurious vacation at an island resort and explain his and his brother's decision to go sailing. The story moves into the main event (the middle and largest part of the story) where Matt and Tyler get caught in a freakish storm while sailing and end up stranded on a desert island. While they find water and build themselves a shelter, they struggle to find food. One night, however, a good luck charm appears in the water and the boys are rescued. Instead of being written to provide information, this story is written to entertain the reader. The reader can imagine how they'd cope with the challenges Tyler and Matt face and feel their hunger right along with them.

Although both texts are about the Ocean Sunfish, or "Mola Mola," it is clear that they differ in genre, organization, and purpose.

conclusion