

The ideational metafunction

The processes in a text

The things that take place (go, cook, think, sleep, ...)

The relationships among things (is, seems, has, ...)

'Who did what to whom, where, when, why, how ...'

The 'whale' text

There are fewer species of the larger baleen whales, that filter krill and small fish through their baleen plates. The largest is the Blue whale which is seen frequently in the Gulf of St Lawrence. It reaches a length of 100 feet and a weight of 200 tons. The young are 25 feet long at birth and gain about 200 lbs a day on their milk diet.

We can divide the text into clauses by grouping each process with its dramatis personae (who's who) and scenery (where, when, how, why etc.):

There are fewer species of the larger baleen whales,
that filter krill and small fish through their baleen plates.
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which is seen frequently in the Gulf of St Lawrence.
It reaches a length of 100 feet and a weight of 200 tons.
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