Connect the Ideas

Sort literary-analysis sentences by how they connect ideas.

11.LL.22 "Apply conventions of standard English grammar, mechanics, and usage, including appropriate formality of language, to communicate effectively with a target audience. a. Exhibit stylistic complexity and sophistication in writing."

NAME _____ DATE _____

LAYERED

A dependent clause connects related ideas and shows how they fit together. This gives the sentence a clear, purposeful flow.

Although the glacier appears motionless, its movement reshapes the valley.

CHOPPY

Related ideas appear in separate short sentences. The grammar may be correct, but the flow can feel abrupt.

The glacier appears still. Its movement reshapes the valley.

1 SORT

8 items

For Part 1 SORT, circle LAYERED or CHOPPY for each item; for Part 2 PROVE IT, choose one item from each category and explain how you knew.

1.	Although the narrator praises the town, her uneasy tone reveals distrust.	LAYERED CHOPPY
2.	The ending is sudden. The final scene leaves the conflict unresolved.	LAYERED CHOPPY
3.	The speaker repeats a question. The repetition creates a sense of doubt.	LAYERED CHOPPY
4.	Because the setting grows darker, the reunion feels less hopeful.	LAYERED CHOPPY
5.	While the two characters share a goal, their methods expose different values.	LAYERED CHOPPY
6.	After the secret becomes public, the dialogue shifts from playful to tense.	LAYERED CHOPPY
7.	The poem begins with a memory. The memory shapes its reflective mood.	LAYERED CHOPPY
8.	The author withholds the letter's contents. Readers must infer its importance.	LAYERED CHOPPY

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Choose one item from each category and explain how you knew.

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

For Part 3 MAKE YOUR OWN, write one new LAYERED sentence and one new CHOPPY pair of sentences about a story or poem.

LAYERED _____

CHOPPY _____

CHALLENGE

Revise your CHOPPY example into one LAYERED sentence using although, because, or while, then name the relationship between its ideas.

ANSWER KEY

Connect the Ideas

GRADE 11 · 11.LL.22

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	Although the narrator praises the town, her uneasy tone reveals distrust.	**LAYERED**	The dependent clause sets up a contrast between praise and distrust.
2	The ending is sudden. The final scene leaves the conflict unresolved.	**CHOPPY**	Two short sentences leave the connection between the ideas unstated.
3	The speaker repeats a question. The repetition creates a sense of doubt.	**CHOPPY**	Separate short sentences state an action and its effect without connecting them.
4	Because the setting grows darker, the reunion feels less hopeful.	**LAYERED**	The dependent clause shows why the reunion feels less hopeful.
5	While the two characters share a goal, their methods expose different values.	**LAYERED**	The dependent clause highlights a contrast between shared goals and different methods.
6	After the secret becomes public, the dialogue shifts from playful to tense.	**LAYERED**	The dependent clause connects the change in dialogue to an earlier event.
7	The poem begins with a memory. The memory shapes its reflective mood.	**CHOPPY**	Two short sentences separate the memory from its effect on the mood.
8	The author withholds the letter's contents. Readers must infer its importance.	**CHOPPY**	Two short sentences leave the cause-and-effect relationship unstated.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Task: Choose one item from each category and explain how you knew.
Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 · MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **LAYERED**: Although the hero accepts the prize, his hesitation hints at regret.
- **CHOPPY**: The storm ends. The empty street still feels dangerous.

Challenge: Although the storm ends, the empty street still feels dangerous. Relationship: contrast.

For Part 2, look for an explanation that identifies either a dependent clause and the relationship it shows or separate short sentences and their abrupt flow. For the challenge, the revision should preserve both ideas and name their relationship accurately.