

DIVIDING TEXT

We will be dividing text into **Units** and **Sub-Units**:

A Unit = is a complete scene or situation.

A Sub-Unit = is smaller than a unit; it is a part of a unit.

- helps to bring out the meaning of the story
- emphasizes a dramatic element in the story

First, read the text out loud. As you read:

Listen for the natural pauses.

Look for the important elements and the most dramatic elements of the story.

(One sentence alone on a page = very dramatic.)

1. Using pencil, draw small vertical lines (**telephone poles**) between words and after the final word, until you have the same number of lines as story sections you need.
2. Connect small lines with long horizontal lines (**telephone wires**).
3. Add **page numbers** in the margins.
4. Circle any words that are important for illustrations.

Jeannie M. Hunt, 2001

EXAMPLE:

The Magician by Uri Shulevitz (7 sections)

1 One day a magician came to a small village. He was traveling on foot. "Where from?" the villagers
2 asked. "Far away," the stranger replied. "Where to?" they wanted to know. "The big city," he said.
3 "Then what are you doing here?" they asked. "I lost my way," he replied. He was an odd fellow. He
4 was ragged and tattered, yet he wore a top hat. He gathered people around him on the street. One
5 minute he was full of tricks and the next, he disappeared. Just like that. He pulled ribbons out of his
6 mouth and turkeys out of his boots. He whistled, and rolls and loaves of bread danced through the
7 air. He whistled again. Everything vanished! He scratched his shoe and there was a flood of
gold coins. Yet he looked poor and hungry.