



READING 6 Understand, make inferences, and draw conclusions about the varied structural patterns and features of literary nonfiction. **8** Analyze, make inferences, and draw conclusions about the author's purpose in cultural and historical contexts. **RC-12(B)** Make complex inferences about text and use textual evidence to support understanding.

DID YOU KNOW?

Fanny Burney ...

- didn't learn to read until age 8 but was writing fiction by age 10.
- started her diary when she was 16.
- was a friend of Samuel Johnson's but didn't like James Boswell.

from The Journal and Letters of Fanny Burney An Encounter with King George III Diary by Fanny Burney

Meet the Author

Fanny Burney 1752–1840

In the robust world of the Age of Johnson, where novel writing was not considered a suitable occupation for a lady, Fanny Burney succeeded like no other woman. Small in stature, shy, and entirely self-educated, she had neither family money nor social status. Yet she carved out a respectable place for herself in society with her popular novels and secured her place in history with her richly detailed diary, first published a few years after her death. Critics today tend to view her as Jane Austen's predecessor and not exactly her literary equal, but Burney's novels outsold Austen's in their day, and Burney herself had a much more worldly and varied life. She counted Samuel Johnson and other members of his influential Literary Club among her friends. She also knew the king and queen of England personally, once chatted with the French king Louis XVIII, and even got a glimpse of Napoleon himself.

Out of Her Father's Shadow She was born Frances Burney, the middle child in a large, close family. Both of her parents were musicians, and her father had a doctorate in music from Oxford.

After the death of her mother, she devoted herself to her father's career, acting as his secretary and helping him write his ambitious history of music. Dr. Burney's growing reputation first brought her into contact with leading artists and intellectuals. With the spotlight on her father, Burney wrote for herself in secret and published all four of her novels anonymously. Even her father didn't know she was writing until after the runaway success of her first novel, *Evelina* (1778).

Literary Celebrity The popularity of Fanny Burney's novels didn't make her rich, but it did enhance her social standing. She became a fixture in literary circles and gained an appointment at the court of George III. In 1793, she met a group of liberal French émigrés, among them a handsome officer named D'Arblay (där'blā') who won her heart. The couple had only a modest income, but the marriage was a happy one and produced a son. D'Arblay supported his wife's career by serving as her secretary, sometimes even copying manuscript pages for her. Burney lived 87 years, an unusually long life for the time. She survived cancer, exile in France during the Napoleonic Wars, and the deaths of both her husband and her son.

Author Online

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LITERARY ANALYSIS: DESCRIPTION IN NONFICTION

A keen observer of human nature, Fanny Burney kept a diary so she could record her descriptions of ordinary as well as famous people. Diaries such as Burney's provide a valuable record of life in previous eras. In the selection you are about to read, she offers an unusually candid portrait of George III. Although Burney writes about actual people, she relies on the same basic methods of description used in fiction to portray them vividly:

- describing a person's physical appearance
- quoting a person or describing his or her actions
- reporting what others say or think about a person
- including her own opinions about a person

As you read Burney's account, notice how she uses these different types of description to convey her impressions of the king.

READING SKILL: DRAW CONCLUSIONS

In her diary, Burney provides poignant revelations about George III and his illness and its effect on life at the royal court. As you read the selection, use text clues and your own knowledge to make **inferences**, or logical guesses, about the effects of the king's condition on those around him. For example, you can infer from the following lines that Burney avoids the king because his presence threatens her in some way:

This morning, when I received my intelligence of the king from Dr. John Willis, I begged to know where I might walk in safety? "In Kew gardens," he said, "as the king would be in Richmond."

Record your inferences in a chart like the one shown. After reading the selection, you will use these notes to **draw conclusions**, or make judgments, about the circumstances at court.

Passages About the King	My Inferences
"... I thought I saw the person of his majesty! Alarmed past all possible expression, I waited not to know more, but turning back, ran off with all my might." (lines 18–21)	Burney is terrified of the king. She may be afraid because she has broken the rules of the royal court.



Complete the activities in your **Reader/Writer Notebook**.

What is your image of ROYALTY?

When you consider the lives of royals, you might focus on their glamour, power, and wealth. On the other hand, you may recall their frivolous scandals and squabbles. Whatever your image of royalty, the reality is probably a combination of pomp and pettiness. At least that's what Fanny Burney discovered when she spent five years at the court of George III in her official capacity as "second keeper of the Queen's robes."

DISCUSS With a small group of classmates, discuss how you imagine everyday life is for royals. In what ways might their lives be similar to those of ordinary people? In what ways might they be different?



AN ENCOUNTER WITH KING GEORGE III

Fanny Burney

BACKGROUND Fanny Burney's diaries chronicle the momentous events and outsized personalities of late 18th-century England and post-revolutionary France. What follows is her most famous account of George III during the period of his mental illness (1788–1789). By then, Burney's own health had begun to suffer after two unhappy years at court. Lonely and bored by her royal duties, she also chafed under the rule of her superior—referred to in this selection as “the coadjutrix”—a woman she found “gloomy, dark, suspicious, rude, reproachful.”

Analyze Visuals ►

What adjectives would you use to describe the architectural and landscaping styles shown in the photograph on the opposite page?

Kew Palace, Monday February 2, 1789

What an adventure had I this morning! one that has occasioned me the severest personal terror I ever experienced in my life.

Sir Lucas Pepys¹ still persisting that exercise and air were absolutely necessary to save me from illness, I have continued my walks, varying my gardens from Richmond to Kew,² according to the accounts I received of the movements of the king. For this I had her majesty's permission, on the representation of Sir Lucas.

This morning, when I received my intelligence of the king from Dr. John Willis,³ I begged to know where I might walk in safety? “In Kew gardens,” he said, “as the king would be in Richmond.” **A**

A DRAW CONCLUSIONS

What details suggest that the king's illness has forced Burney to change her personal habits?

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1. **Sir Lucas Pepys** (pēps): a physician who was an old friend of the Burney family.
 2. **gardens from Richmond to Kew**: the gardens at Richmond House and Kew House, two adjoining royal residences west of London that were often used by George III and his family.
 3. **Dr. John Willis**: a clergyman and physician who attended George III during his illness. His son, John Willis, also a physician, assisted in treating the king.



10 “Should any unfortunate circumstance,” I cried, “at any time, occasion my being seen by his majesty, do not mention my name, but let me run off without call or notice.”

This he promised. Everybody, indeed, is ordered to keep out of sight.

Taking, therefore, the time I had most at command, I strolled into the gardens. I had proceeded, in my quick way, nearly half the round, when I suddenly perceived, through some trees, two or three figures. Relying on the instructions of Dr. John, I concluded them to be workmen and gardeners; yet tried to look sharp, and in so doing, as they were less shaded, I thought I saw the person of his majesty!

20 Alarmed past all possible expression, I waited not to know more, but turning back, ran off with all my might. But what was my terror to hear myself pursued!—to hear the voice of the king himself loudly and hoarsely calling after me, “Miss Burney! Miss Burney!”

I protest I was ready to die. I knew not in what state he might be at the time; I only knew the orders to keep out of his way were universal; that the queen would highly disapprove any unauthorized meeting, and that the very action of my running away might deeply, in his present irritable state, offend him. Nevertheless, on I ran, too terrified to stop, and in search of some short passage, for the garden is full of little labyrinths, by which I might escape. **B**

30 The steps still pursued me, and still the poor hoarse and altered voice rang in my ears:—more and more footsteps resounded frightfully behind me,—the attendants all running, to catch their eager master, and the voices of the two Doctor Willis es loudly exhorting him not to heat himself so unmercifully.

Heavens, how I ran! I do not think I should have felt the hot lava from Vesuvius—at least not the hot cinders—had I so run during its eruption. My feet were not sensible that they even touched the ground.

Soon after, I heard other voices, shriller, though less nervous, call out “Stop! stop! stop!”

I could by no means consent; I knew not what was purposed, but I recollected
40 fully my agreement with Dr. John that very morning, that I should decamp if surprised, and not be named.

My own fears and repugnance, also, after a flight and disobedience like this, were doubled in the thought of not escaping; I knew not to what I might be exposed, should the malady be then high,⁴ and take the turn of resentment. Still, therefore, on I flew; and such was my speed, so almost incredible to relate or recollect, that I fairly believe no one of the whole party could have overtaken me, if these words, from one of the attendants, had not reached me: “Doctor Willis begs you to stop!” **C**

50 “I cannot! I cannot!” I answered, still flying on, when he called out “You must, ma’am; it hurts the king to run.”

Then, indeed, I stopped—in a state of fear really amounting to agony. I turned round, I saw the two doctors had got the king between them, and three attendants

B DRAW CONCLUSIONS

Reread lines 24–29. In what ways has the king’s malady affected the activities of the royal court?

C DESCRIPTION

What do you learn about the king based on Burney’s direct comments in lines 42–48?

4. **malady** (măl’ē-dē) **be then high**: illness then be greater, or worse, than usual.

of Dr. Willis's were hovering about. They all slackened their pace, as they saw me stand still; but such was the excess of my alarm, that I was wholly insensible⁵ to the effects of a race which, at any other time, would have required an hour's recruit.⁶

As they approached, some little presence of mind happily came to my command; it occurred to me that, to appease the wrath of⁷ my flight, I must now show some confidence. I therefore faced them as undauntedly as I was able, only charging the nearest of the attendants to stand by my side.

60 When they were within a few yards of me, the king called out, "Why did you run away?"

Shocked at a question impossible to answer, yet a little assured by the mild tone of his voice, I instantly forced myself forward, to meet him, though the internal sensation, which satisfied me this was a step the most proper to appease his suspicions and displeasure, was so violently combated by the tremor of my nerves, that I fairly think I may reckon it the greatest effort of personal courage I have ever made.

The effort answered:⁸ I looked up, and met all his wonted benignity of countenance,⁹ though something still of wildness in his eyes. Think, however, of
70 my surprise, to feel him put both his hands round my two shoulders, and then kiss my cheek!

I wonder I did not really sink, so exquisite was my affright when I saw him spread out his arms! Involuntarily, I concluded he meant to crush me; but the Willises, who have never seen him till this fatal illness, not knowing how very extraordinary an action this was from him, simply smiled and looked pleased, supposing, perhaps, it was his customary salutation! **D**

I believe, however, it was but the joy of a heart unbridled, now, by the forms and proprieties of established custom and sober reason. To see any of his household thus by accident, seemed such a near approach to liberty and recovery,
80 that who can wonder it should serve rather to elate than lessen what yet remains of his disorder!

He now spoke in such terms of his pleasure in seeing me, that I soon lost the whole of my terror; astonishment to find him so nearly well, and gratification to see him so pleased, removed every uneasy feeling, and the joy that succeeded, in my conviction of his recovery, made me ready to throw myself at his feet to express it.

What a conversation followed! When he saw me fearless, he grew more and more alive, and made me walk close by his side, away from the attendants, and even the Willises themselves, who, to indulge him, retreated. I own¹⁰ myself not
90 completely composed, but alarm I could entertain no more.

D DESCRIPTION

Reread lines 68–76. What do the king's appearance and actions toward Burney reveal about him?

5. **wholly insensible:** completely unaware.

6. **recruit** (rĭ-krōōt'): recovery; renewal of strength.

7. **appease the wrath of:** make up for the fury of.

8. **answered:** met the situation; worked.

9. **his wonted benignity** (wōn'tīd bĭ-nĭg'nĭ-tē) **of countenance** (koun'tə-nəns): the customary kindness of his facial expression.

10. **own:** admit.



King George III of England (1771), Johann Zoffany. Oil on canvas. The Granger Collection, New York.

Everything that came uppermost in his mind he mentioned; he seemed to have just such remains of his flightiness as heated his imagination without deranging his reason, and robbed him of all control over his speech, though nearly in his perfect state of mind as to his opinions.

What did he not say!—He opened his whole heart to me,—expounded all his sentiments, and acquainted me with all his intentions.

The heads of his discourse¹¹ I must give you briefly, as I am sure you will be highly curious to hear them, and as no accident can render of much consequence what a man says in such a state of physical intoxication. He assured me he was
100 quite well—as well as he had ever been in his life; and then inquired how I did, and how I went on? and whether I was more comfortable? If these questions, in their implication, surprised me, imagine how that surprise must increase when he proceeded to explain them! He asked after the coadjutrix,¹² laughing, and saying “Never mind her!—don’t be oppressed—I am your friend! don’t let her cast you down!—I know you have a hard time of it—but don’t mind her!”

Almost thunderstruck with astonishment, I merely curtsied to his kind “I am your friend,” and said nothing.

Then presently he added, “Stick to your father—stick to your own family—let them be your objects.”

110 How readily I assented!

Again he repeated all I have just written, nearly in the same words, but ended it more seriously: he suddenly stopped, and held me to stop too, and putting his hand on his breast, in the most solemn manner, he gravely and slowly said, “I will protect you!—I promise you that—and therefore depend upon me!”

I thanked him; and the Willises, thinking him rather too elevated,¹³ came to propose my walking on. “No, no, no!” he cried, a hundred times in a breath; and their good humor prevailed, and they let him again walk on with his new companion.

He then gave me a history of his pages,¹⁴ animating almost into a rage, as he
120 related his subjects of displeasure with them, particularly with Mr. Ernst, who he told me had been brought up by himself. I hope his ideas upon these men are the result of the mistakes of his malady.

Then he asked me some questions that very greatly distressed me, relating to information given him in his illness, from various motives, but which he suspected to be false, and which I knew he had reason to suspect; yet was it most dangerous to set anything right, as I was not aware what might be the views of their having been stated wrong. I was as discreet as I knew how to be, and I hope I did no mischief; but this was the worst part of the dialogue.

◀ Analyze Visuals

Examine the portrait of George III on page 712. How does this image compare with the impression you get of him in Burney’s diary?

11. **heads of his discourse:** main points of his conversation.

12. **coadjutrix** (kō-əjū’trix): Elizabeth Juliana Schwellenberg, First Keeper of the Robes to Queen Charlotte and Fanny’s immediate superior. She was known to be bossy and difficult toward the rest of the royal household staff and gave Fanny a terrible time.

13. **elevated:** excited.

14. **pages:** young male servants attending a king or someone else of high rank.

He next talked to me a great deal of my dear father, and made a thousand
130 inquiries concerning his “History of Music.”¹⁵ This brought him to his favorite
theme, Handel;¹⁶ and he told me innumerable anecdotes of him, and particularly
that celebrated tale of Handel’s saying of himself, when a boy, “While that boy
lives, my music will never want a protector.” And this, he said, I might relate to
my father. Then he ran over most of his oratorios, attempting to sing the subjects
of several airs and choruses,¹⁷ but so dreadfully hoarse that the sound was terrible.

Dr. Willis, quite alarmed at this exertion, feared he would do himself harm,
and again proposed a separation. “No! no! no!” he exclaimed, “not yet; I have
something I must just mention first.”

Dr. Willis, delighted to comply, even when uneasy at compliance, again gave
140 way. The good king then greatly affected me. He began upon my revered old
friend, Mrs. Delany;¹⁸ and he spoke of her with such warmth—such kindness!
“She was my friend!” he cried, “and I loved her as a friend! I have made a
memorandum when I lost her—I will show it you.”

He pulled out a pocketbook,¹⁹ and rummaged some time, but to no purpose.
The tears stood in his eyes—he wiped them, and Dr. Willis again became very
anxious. “Come, sir,” he cried, “now do you come in and let the lady go on
her walk,—come, now you have talked a long while,—so we’ll go in,—if your
majesty pleases.” **E**

“No, no!” he cried, “I want to ask her a few questions;—I have lived so long
150 out of the world, I know nothing!”

This touched me to the heart. . . . He then told me he was very much
dissatisfied with several of his state officers, and meant to form an entire new
establishment. He took a paper out of his pocketbook, and showed me his
new list.

This was the wildest thing that passed; and Dr. John Willis now seriously urged
our separating; but he would not consent; he had only three more words to say, he
declared, and again he conquered.

He now spoke of my father, with still more kindness, and told me he ought
to have had the post of master of the band, and not that little poor musician
160 Parsons,²⁰ who was not fit for it: “But Lord Salisbury,”²¹ he cried, “used your

E DESCRIPTION

Examine the way Dr. Willis responds to the king’s behavior in lines 136–148. What do you learn about the king’s condition based on Burney’s description of the doctor’s reaction to him?

15. **“History of Music”**: Fanny’s father, Dr. Charles Burney, was a music historian best known for his *General History of Music*, the third and fourth volumes of which were published in 1789, the same year in which the events in this selection occurred.

16. **Handel** (hăń’dl): George Frideric Handel (1685–1759), the great composer and a favorite of the king’s father, George II.

17. **oratorios** (ôr’ə-tôr’ē-ōz) . . . **choruses**: long, dramatic musical compositions that contain arias (or “airs”), choruses, and other portions to be sung but that differ from operas in not being performed with stage action, scenery, and costumes.

18. **Mrs. Delany**: Mary Delany, an elderly friend of Fanny’s who had recently died.

19. **pocketbook**: a case or folder for carrying money or papers in one’s pocket.

20. **he ought . . . Parsons**: Dr. Burney applied for the position of Master of the King’s Band when it became vacant, but the post was instead given to a William Parsons.

21. **Lord Salisbury** (sôlz’běr’ē): James Cecil, Marquess of Salisbury, who served as the royal household’s Lord Chamberlain from 1783 to 1804, would have been involved in deciding who obtained the position of Master of the King’s Band.



father very ill in that business, and so he did me! However, I have dashed out his name, and I shall put your father's in,—as soon as I get loose again!"

This again—how affecting was this!

"And what," cried he, "has your father got, at last? nothing but that poor thing at Chelsea?²² O fie! fie! fie! But never mind! I will take care of him! I will do it myself!" Then presently he added, "As to Lord Salisbury, he is out already, as this memorandum will show you, and so are many more. I shall be much better served; and when once I get away, I shall rule with a rod of iron!"

This was very unlike himself, and startled the two good doctors, who could not
 170 bear to cross him, and were exulting at my seeing his great amendment,²³ but yet grew quite uneasy at his earnestness and volubility.

Finding we now must part, he stopped to take leave, and renewed again his charges about the coadjutrix. "Never mind her!" he cried, "depend upon me! I will be your friend as long as I live!—I here pledge myself to be your friend!" And then he saluted me again just as at the meeting, and suffered me to go on.

What a scene! how variously was I affected by it! but, upon the whole, how inexpressibly thankful to see him so nearly himself—so little removed from recovery! ☞

22. **that poor thing at Chelsea** (chě'l'sē): Instead of Master of the King's Band, Dr. Burney was made organist in the chapel on the grounds of Chelsea Hospital, a refuge for old and disabled soldiers located in London.

23. **amendment**: change for the better; improvement.

Language Coach

Frequently Misused

Words The word *affect* is often confused with *effect*. As a verb, the first means "to have an influence on" and the second means "to cause." In line 163, *affecting* means "emotionally touching." Use *effecting* correctly in a sentence.

Comprehension

1. **Recall** Why was Burney surprised to run into the king on her walk?
2. **Clarify** Why was she so terrified of meeting him?
3. **Summarize** In the end, what is Burney's opinion of the king's mental health?

Literary Analysis

4. **Analyze Description** Throughout the selection, Burney uses various methods of characterization to develop her portrait of George III. Identify one example of each method. Which method gives you the most vivid impression of the king's personality?
5. **Make Inferences About the Author** Summarize the events in each of the following scenes. To what extent is Burney's initial "terror" of the king justified?
 - her plans for a morning walk (lines 3–12)
 - her flight from the king (lines 20–29)
 - her "disobedience" (lines 37–48)
 - the king's treatment of her (lines 68–76)
6. **Make Judgments** Based on Burney's reaction to the king, what judgments can you make about how the king was expected to act?
7. **Draw Conclusions** Look over the **inferences** you recorded as you read the selection. What aspect of the king's illness do you think posed the most difficulty for those around him? Support your conclusion with evidence from the text.
8. **Synthesize Information** Using information from Burney's account and the newspaper article on page 717, what is your understanding of George III's condition? Cite specific details in your response.



READING 6 Understand, make inferences, and draw conclusions about the varied structural patterns and features of literary nonfiction. **8** Analyze, make inferences, and draw conclusions about the author's purpose in cultural and historical contexts. **RC-12(B)** Make complex inferences about text and use textual evidence to support understanding.

Literary Criticism

9. **Analyze Diary** Burney's diaries were first published in England in 1842. Diarists are often accused of invading the privacy of others because they record potentially embarrassing details about people's lives without their permission. Do you think this applies to this excerpt from Burney's diaries about King George III's mental illness? Why or why not?

What is your image of **ROYALTY?**

The royal family of England continues to fascinate people today. Why do you think this is the case? What symbolic roles does the royal family play for other people?

NEWSPAPER ARTICLE In this recent article, Emma Ross offers a glimpse into the possible causes of George III's mental illness.

Madness of King George Tied to Arsenic

EMMA ROSS

Scientists have found high levels of arsenic in the hair of King George III and say the deadly poison may be to blame for the bouts of apparent madness he suffered.

In 1969, researchers proposed that the strange behavior of the monarch who reigned during the American Revolution resulted from a rare hereditary blood disorder called porphyria.

However, a study published this week in the British medical journal the *Lancet* found high concentrations of arsenic in the king's hair and contends the severity and duration of his episodes of illness may have been caused by the toxic substance. . . .

While on the throne, George had five episodes of prolonged and profound mental derangement.

In 1969, psychiatrists investigating his documented symptoms such as lameness, acute abdominal pain, red urine, and temporary mental disturbance, proposed he suffered from porphyria. Subsequent studies that examined records of his ancestors, descendants, and other relatives refined the diagnosis to a certain type of porphyria.

However, the research did not explain the unusual persistence, severity, and late onset of attacks.

"People can have the faulty gene which makes them susceptible to attacks, but in about 80 percent of cases they never have any symptoms," said Martin Warren, a professor of biosciences at the University of Kent in England who led the latest study.

"If you are unfortunate enough to get them, porphyric attacks can be deadly, and some patients die from their first one," Warren

said. "But in many cases the attacks tend to be much less severe, and certainly not for the same duration that George III had."

Warren and his team set out to examine a sample of the king's hair on display at London's Science Museum for traces of mercury or lead, metals known to make porphyria worse.

"What surprised us was there were very high levels of arsenic. Arsenic is also known to push porphyric patients into a worse state," Warren said. The semimetallic element was found to be at 17 parts per million in the hair.

Levels normally are found at less than one part per million.

Arsenic interferes with the production of hemoglobin, a key element of blood and the central problem of porphyria. The blood then gets toxic, which can cause mental disturbance and severe pain.

John Henry, a toxicologist at Imperial College in London, was

cautious about interpreting the findings.

"He may have accumulated significant amounts in the last few months of his life, but that doesn't prove it caused his illness all his life," Henry said. "It's a nice theory, but it's just that—a theory." . . .

The king's medical records revealed he had consistently been given medicine containing antimony, a mineral often found in the ground with arsenic.

"The way antimony was extracted 200 years ago means that it was often quite contaminated with arsenic," Warren said. "The king was given large doses of antimony for his abdominal pains, and that was probably the source of the arsenic."

