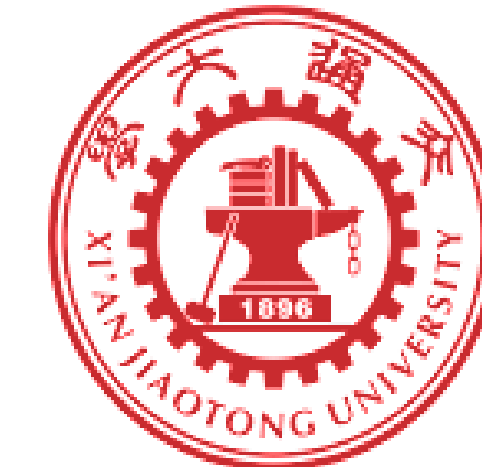


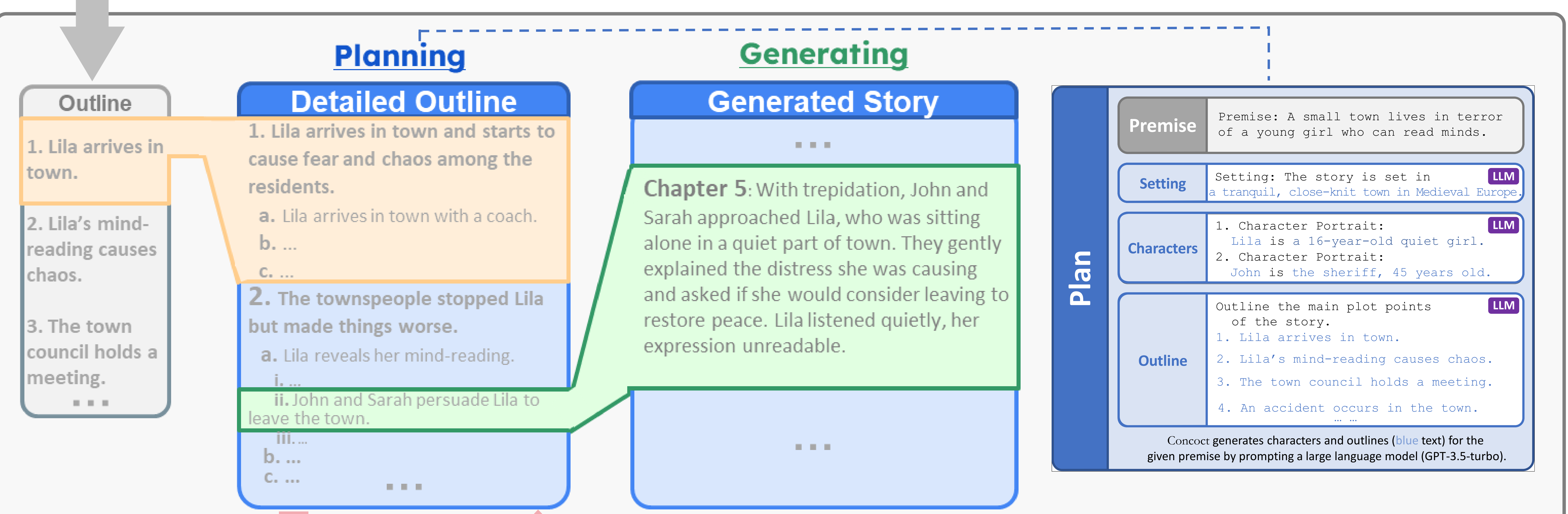
Improving Pacing in Long-Form Story Planning

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Premise A small town lives in terror of a young girl who can read minds.

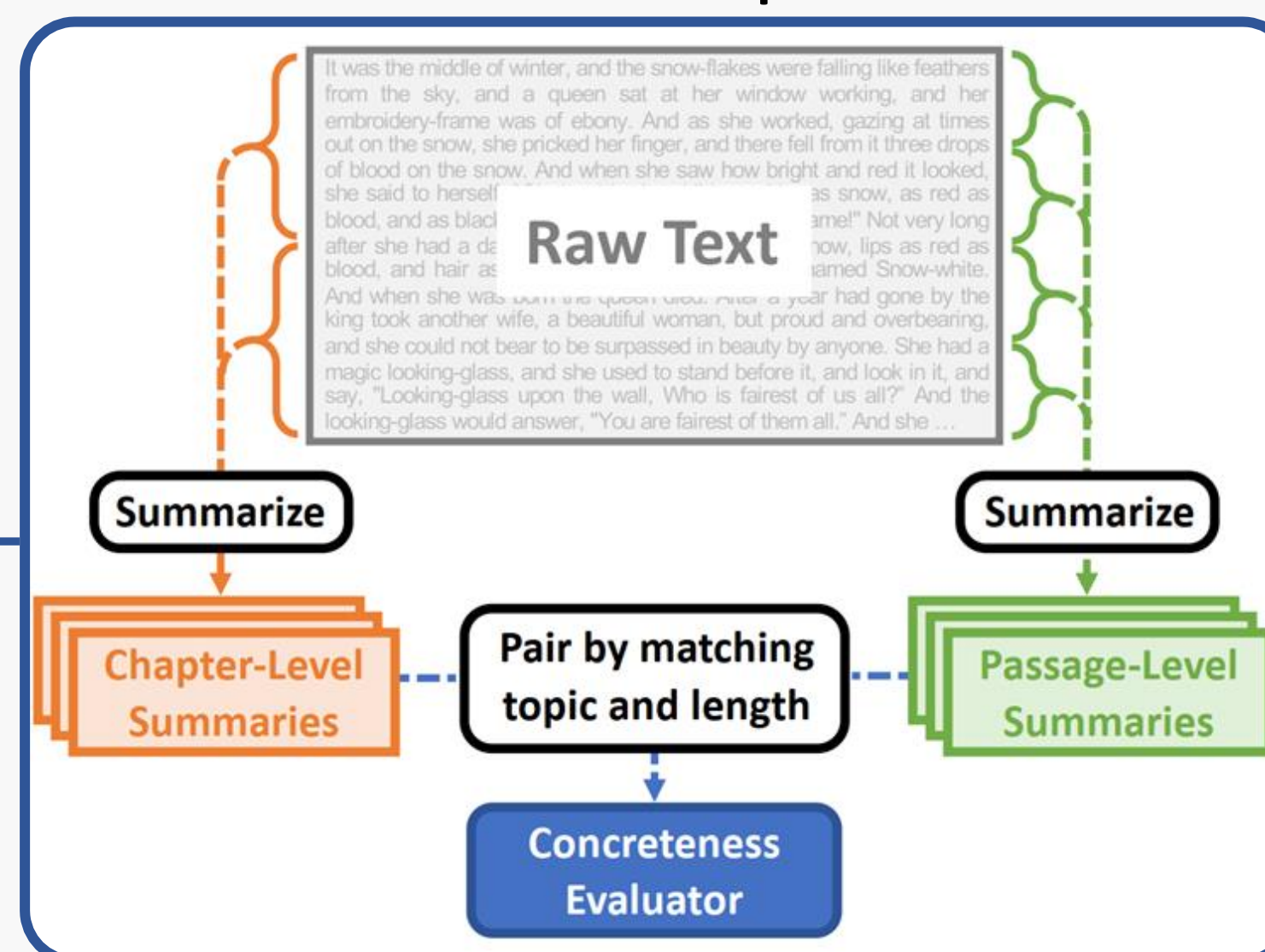


Vaguest-First Expansion Order At each step of outline expansion, we compute the average probability that each leaf is more concrete compared to all other leaves.

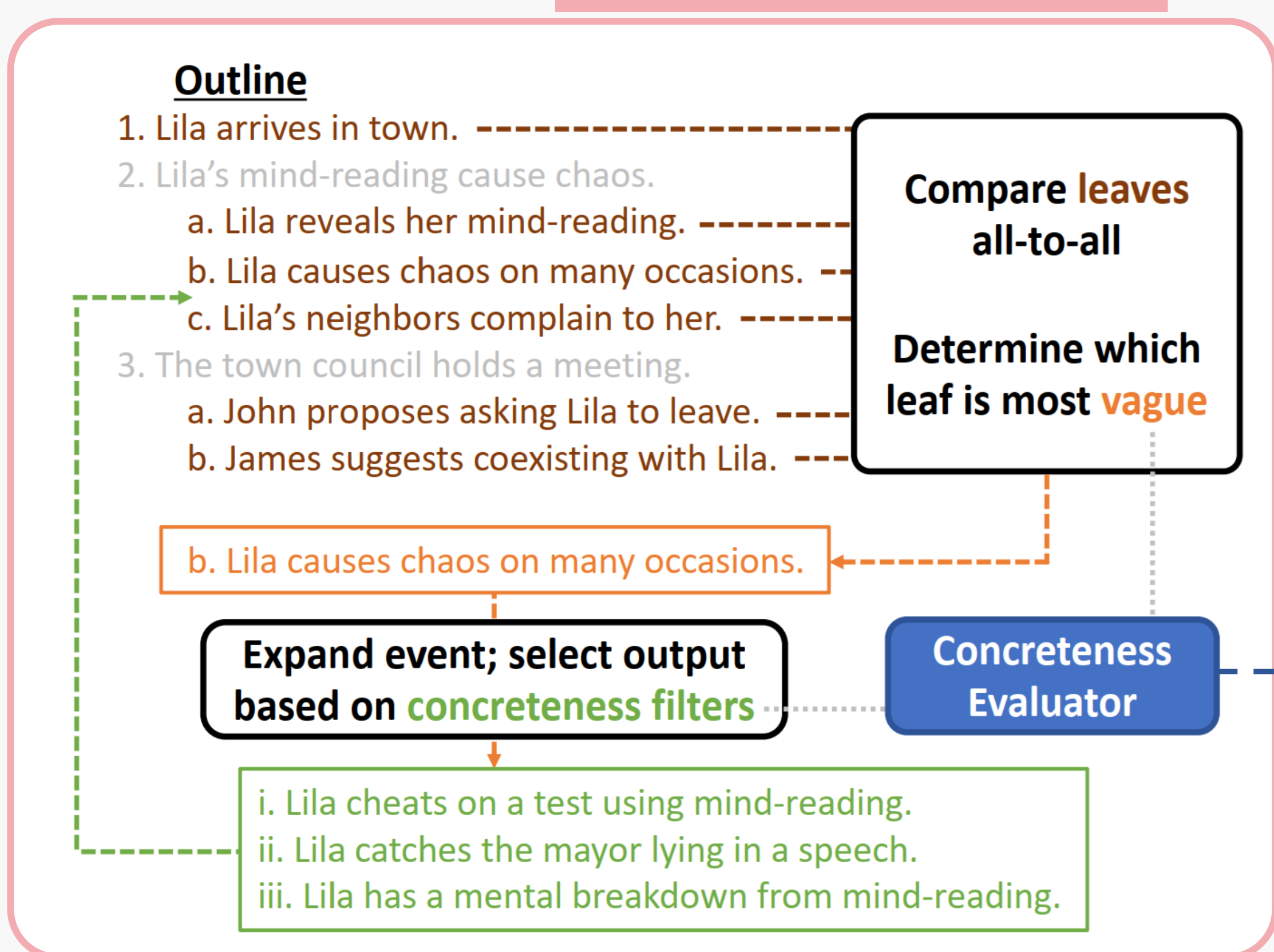
Concrete Children Generation We use the Evaluator to filter candidate children (i.e., sub-events) during outline expansion to guarantee that child nodes will be more concrete than their parent.

Concreteness Evaluator It is challenging to define 'concreteness' in single texts but is easier when comparing two texts, t0 and t1.

GPT-BookSum A dataset of summaries of varying lengths at different levels in a uniform style.



Split	Chapter-Level			Paragraph-Level				
	Size	Summary Len	Raw Len	Raw / Sum	Size	Summary Len	Raw Len	Raw / Sum
Train	23,564	133.7	5450.7	40.77	162,122	58.6	71.6	1.22
Val	3,086	134.2	4607.8	34.34	58,648	56.6	63.7	1.13
Test	3,397	135.1	5440.8	40.27	59,965	59.5	76.4	1.28



Example Outline

Premise As a person goes through his life, he is given three options at the end of each day, continue, restart day, or restart life. He has just lived through the worst day of his life.

Generated Outline (Abridged)

- 1: John, a middle-aged man, lives through the worst day of his life and is given three options at the end of the day: continue, restart day, or restart life.
 - 1.1: John wakes up late for work, causing him to miss an important meeting with his boss.
 - 1.1.1: John wakes up late for work and rushes to get ready. ... [3 sub-points] ...
 - 1.1.2: John realizes he forgot his laptop at home and has to turn back, wasting more time.
 - 1.1.2.1: John considers to continue with his current life, but feels like he cannot bear ...
 - 1.1.2.2: John considers the option to restart the day, hoping that he can undo the mistakes.
 - 1.1.2.2.1: John feels overwhelmed and uncertain about what choice to make, wondering if any of the options will lead to a better outcome. ... [2 points] ...
 - 1.1.2.3: John gets stuck in traffic ...
 - 1.2: At the end of the day, John is presented with three options: continue, restart day, or restart life.
 - 1.2.1: John chooses to restart the day and tries to fix the mistakes he made on the previous day, but ends up making things worse. ... [7 sub-points] ...
 - 1.2.2: John chooses to continue with his current life, but feels like he cannot bear ...
 - 1.2.3: John feels overwhelmed and uncertain about what choice to make, wondering if any of the options will lead to a better outcome. ... [2 points] ...
 - 2: John chooses to restart the day and tries to fix the mistakes he made on the previous day, but ends up making things worse. ... [7 sub-points] ...
 - 3: After several failed attempts to fix the day, John decides to restart his life and live it differently, but realizes that some things are beyond his control. ... [13 sub-points] ...
 - 3.3.3.3 John embraces the present moment and finds peace in the knowledge that even though his life is not perfect, it is exactly where he is meant to be.

Concoct spends more space on tight and vital plots.

Example Story

Premise As a person goes through his life, he is given three options at the end of each day, continue, restart day, or restart life. He has just lived through the worst day of his life.

Generated Story (Abridged)

The alarm blares, yanking John from his sleep as if it were his personal drill sergeant. He stumbles out of bed and lurches towards the bathroom, desperately trying to shake off the haze of a restless night ... [157 words] ...

... [13 words] ... A sinking feeling pervades his stomach as the weight of his blunder bears down upon him—he forgot his laptop ... [36 words] ...

... [33 words] ... With a desperate roar of the engine, he plunges into the chaos of the morning commute, tethered to the whims of traffic. ... [15 words] ...

A heavy sigh escapes John's lips as he weighs his options, his heart burdened by the weight of despair. The thought of enduring another day like the one that had just unfolded fills him with an overwhelming sense of dread. ... [37 words] ...

... [35 words] ... Maybe, by restarting the day, he can undo the mistakes that have haunted him and pave the way for a brighter future. ... [18 words] ...

Doubt gnaws at the corners of John's mind, sowing seeds of uncertainty amidst the chaos of his thoughts. ... [56 words] ...

... [2 paragraphs, 142 words] ...

As the morning sun casts its golden glow upon the world, John stands before the mirror, his reflection a canvas for self-empowerment. ... [54 words] ...

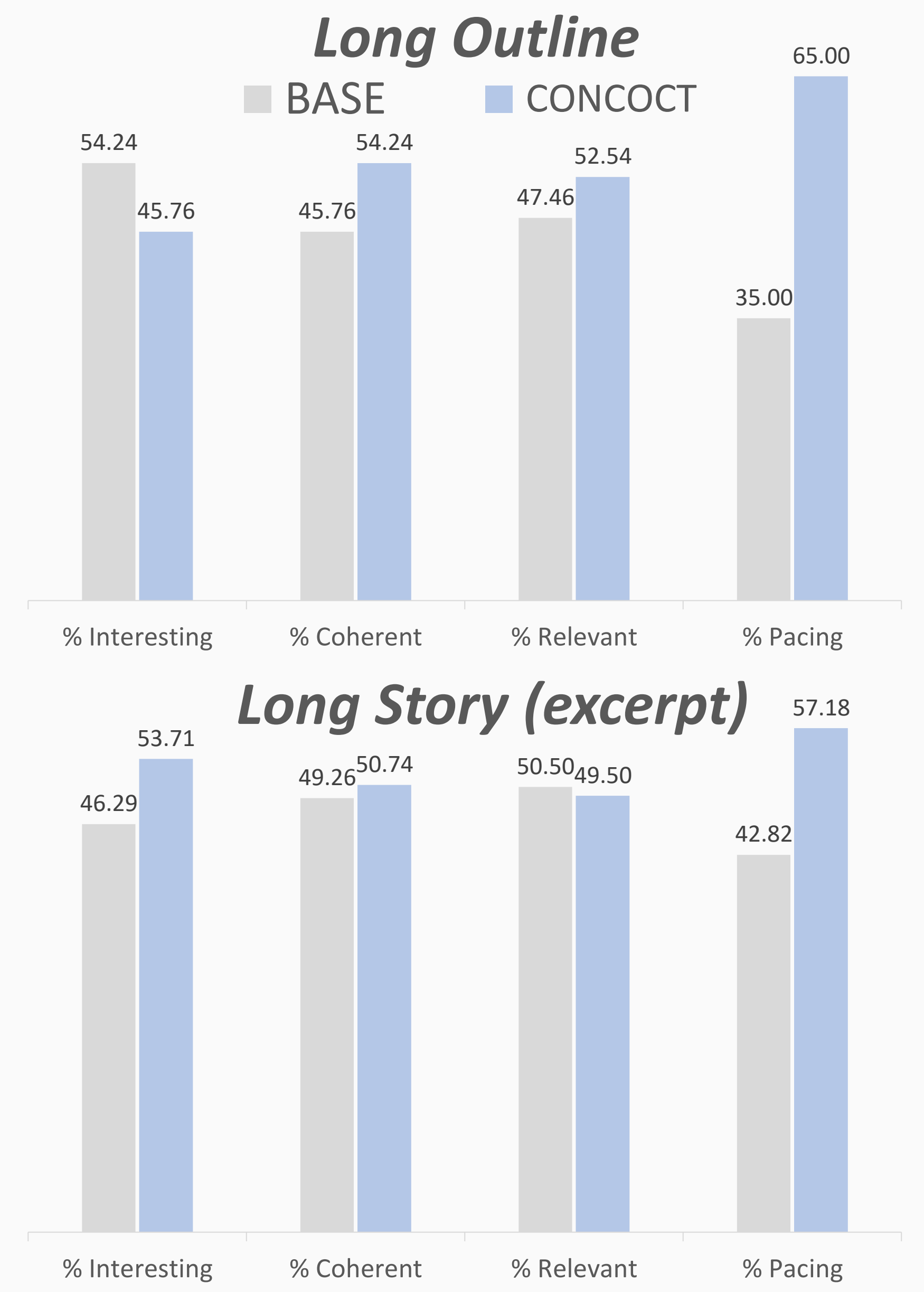
... [7 paragraphs, 464 words] ...

... [13 paragraphs, 950 words] ...

... [55 words] ... In the embrace of imperfection, he finds solace, for it is within life's tapestry of flaws and intricacies that true beauty resides.

Concoct follows the outline with better pacing and comparable coherence and relevance.

Quantitative Results



Compared to the baseline, Concoct's outlines and stories are rated better in pacing and comparable on other attributes.