

# 5 Kinds of Nonfiction

## Enriching Reading and Writing Instruction

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MISSISSIPPI  
DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATION

2021-2022





1

**ALL** Students Proficient and Showing Growth in All Assessed Areas



2

**EVERY** Student Graduates from High School and is Ready for College and Career



3

**EVERY** Child Has Access to a High-Quality Early Childhood Program

**EVERY** School Has Effective Teachers and Leaders

4



**EVERY** Community Effectively Uses a World-Class Data System to Improve Student Outcomes

5



**EVERY** School and District is Rated “C” or Higher

6



## VISION

To create a world-class educational system that gives students the knowledge and skills to be successful in college and the workforce, and to flourish as parents and citizens



## MISSION

To provide leadership through the development of policy and accountability systems so that all students are prepared to compete in the global community



Children without basic literacy skills when they enter school are **3-4 times** more likely to drop out later.



Reading to a child in an interactive style raises his or her IQ by over **6 points**.



15 minutes per day of independent reading can equal **1 million+** words in a year.



Daily reading to children puts them almost **1 year** ahead of those who are not being read to.



Children who read 3,000 words per day will be in the **top 2%** of standardized tests.





# Warm-Up Talk

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How many kinds of nonfiction books can you list?



# Introduction

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5 Kinds of Nonfiction

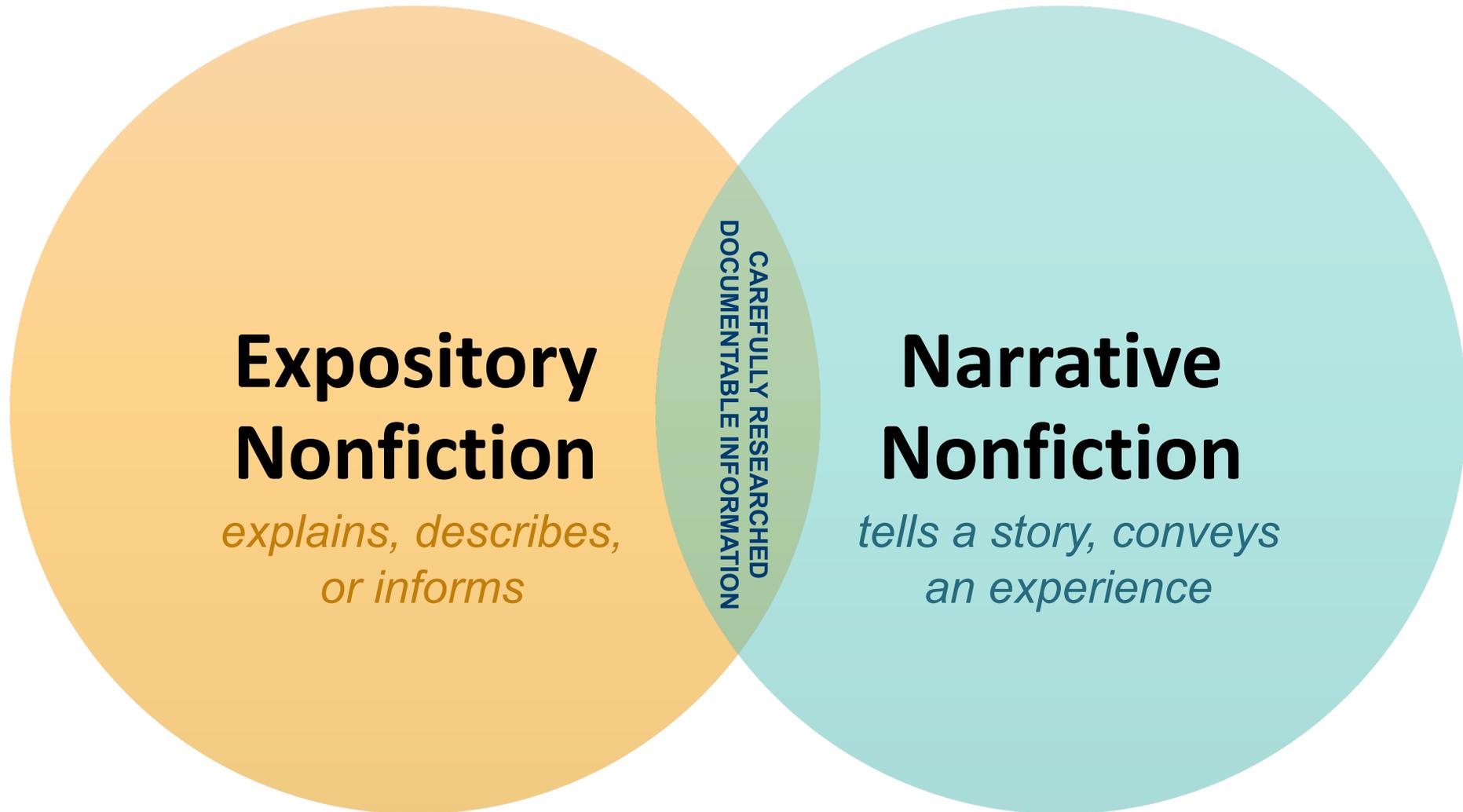




Nonfiction books for students routinely included concise, stodgy writing. Most of the books were text heavy, with just a few scattered images decorating, rather than enhancing, the content and meaning. But nonfiction has changed dramatically over the last two decades, evolving into a new breed of visually dynamic, engaging texts that delight as well as inform.



Nonfiction books are defined as those written and illustrated to ***present, organize, and interpret*** documentable, factual material.



## Expository Nonfiction

- Shares ideas and information in a direct, straightforward way
- Relies on art and design to help convey meaning
- Include a wide variety of text features

## Narrative Nonfiction

- Chronological sequence text structure
- Includes real characters, settings, narrative scenes, and a narrative arc
- Examples: biographies or recount historical events

Active

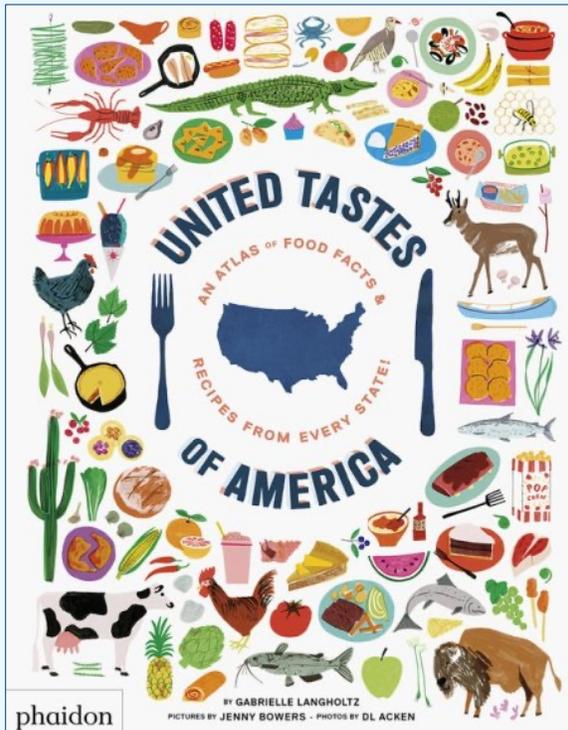
Browseable

Traditional

Expository  
Literature

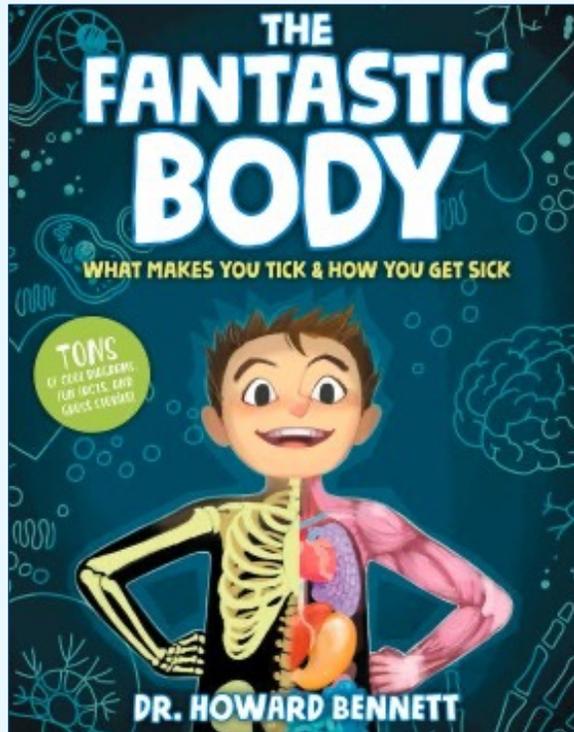
Narrative

Equipped Grade K-1 title:  
*United Tastes of America*



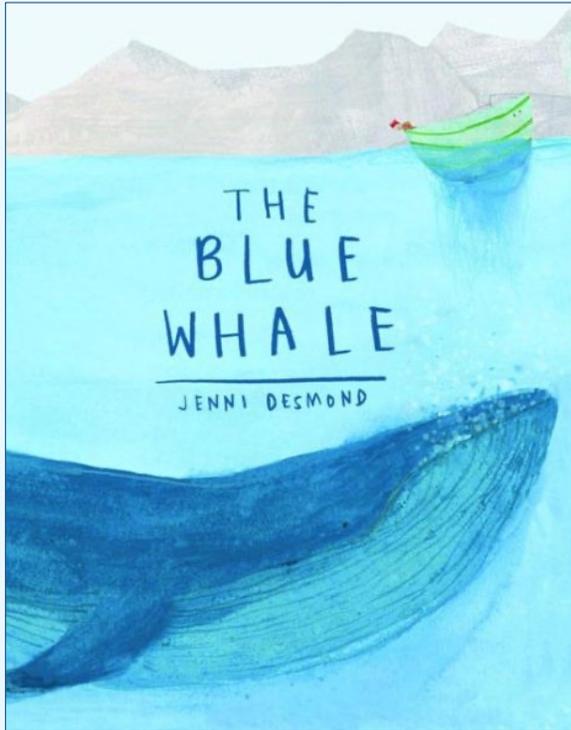
- High interactive and/or teaches skills for engaging in activity
- How-to guides, field guides, cookbooks, and craft books
- Clear, straightforward language
- Expository writing
- **Best used for:** Engaging in an activity or learning a new skill; perfect for makerspaces

Equipped Grade 2 title:  
*The Fantastic Body*



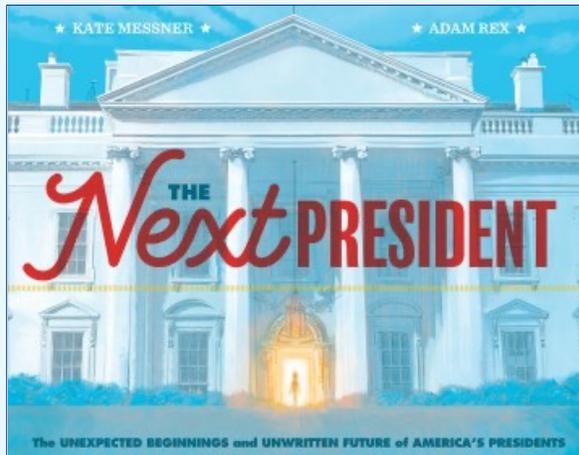
- Eye-catching design, lavishly illustrated
- Short blocks of straightforward text
- Can be read cover to cover or by skipping around
- Great for shared reading
- Expository writing style
- Description text structure
- **Best used for:** Engaging readers quickly by offering interesting or unusual facts; text features make it easy to find specific information; the emphasis is on the book's design and visuals; use later in research process to add interesting details

Equipped Grade 3 title:  
*The Blue Whale*



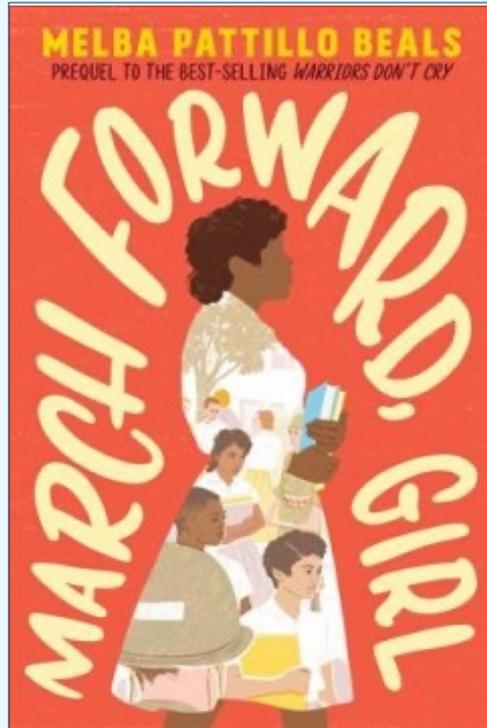
- Survey (all about) books
- Overview of a topic
- Often part of a large series
- Expository writing style
- Description text structure
- **Best used for:** An overview or introduction to a topic, use early in the research process to build understanding

Equipped Grade 4 title:  
*The Next President*



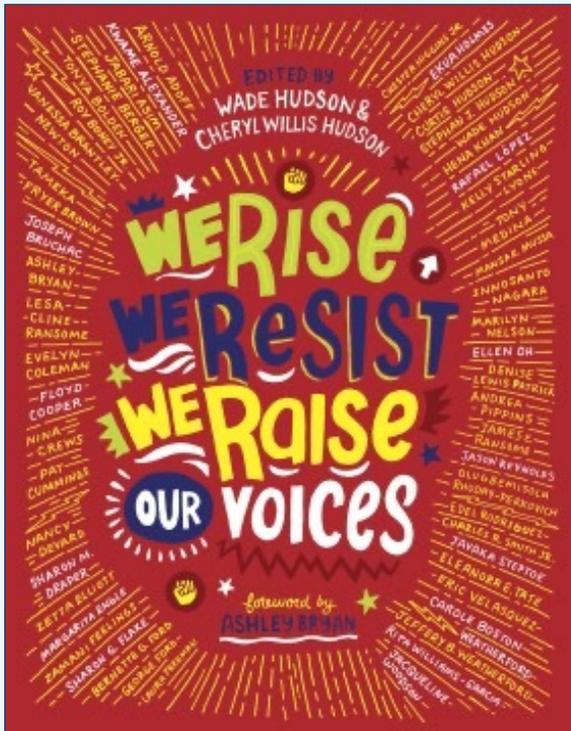
- Focused topics presented creatively
- Strong voice and rich, engaging language
- Innovative format
- Carefully chosen text structure
- Expository writing style
- Books about specialized ideas, such as STEM concepts
- **Best used for:** Provide more depth or interesting perspective, ideal mentor texts for writing workshops, nonfiction read alouds

Equipped Grade 5 title:  
*March Forward, Girl*

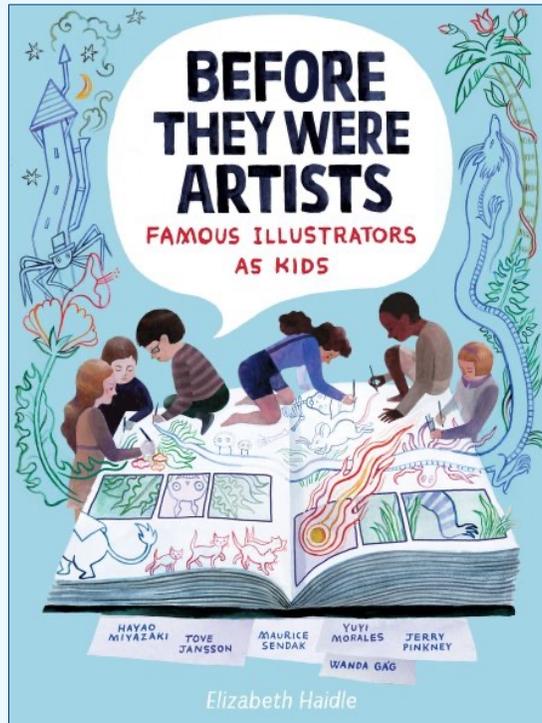


- Narrative writing style
- Tells a story or conveys an experience
- Real characters, scenes, dialog, narrative arc
- Strong voice and rich, engaging language
- Chronological sequence structure
- Books about people (biographies), events, or processes
- **Best used for:** Understanding a past time or place, a person, or a process; nonfiction read alouds

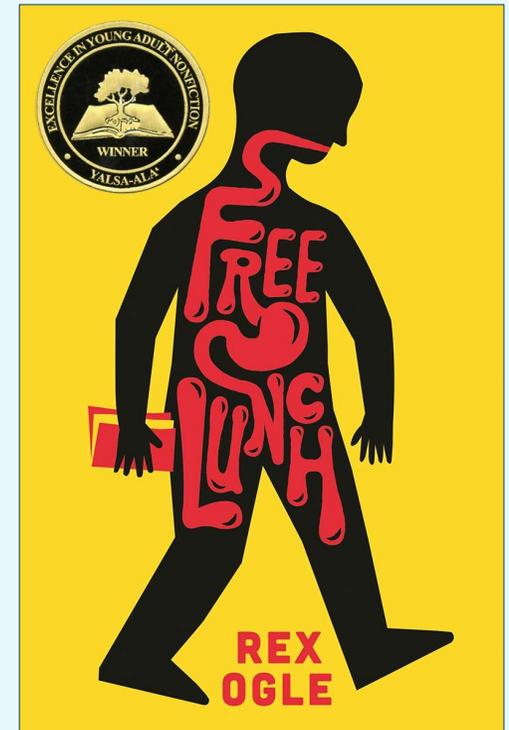
Equipped Grade 7 title:  
*We Rise (Browseable)*



Equipped Grade 6 title:  
*Before They Were Artists (Expository)*



Equipped Grade 6 title:  
*Free Lunch (Narrative)*



# Access

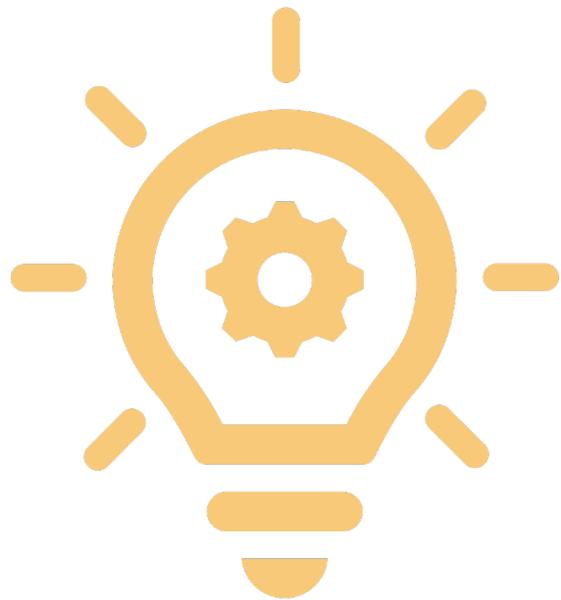
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5 Kinds of Nonfiction

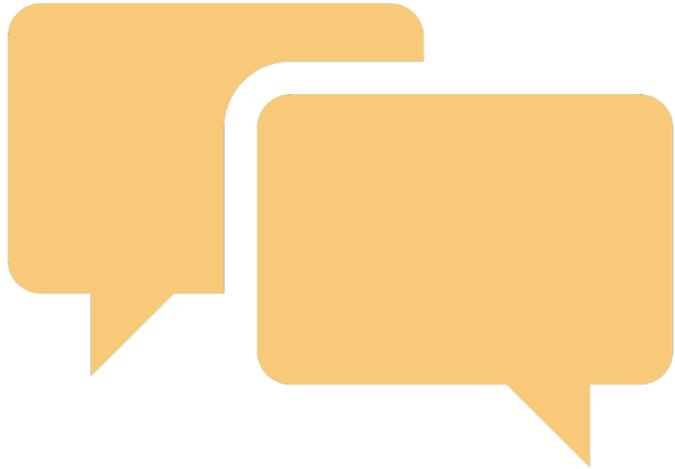




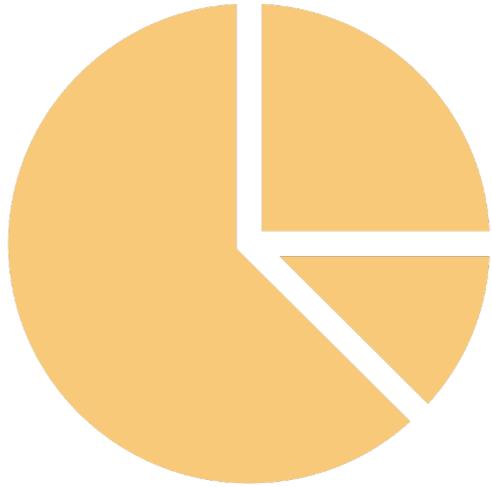
**“Students crave an emotional connection with the central figure in a book, and they read with a purpose – to understand the world and how it works and their place in it. Students want to understand the past and the present, so they can envision the future stretching out before them.”**



Discovering a student's passion and fueling in with high-quality nonfiction can make all the difference in their progress as a reader. These books can inspire students to *stretch their knowledge* and *understanding* of the world around them.



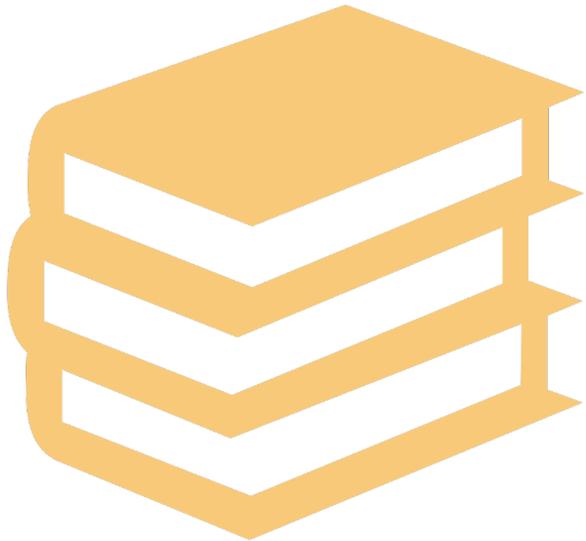
High-quality children’s nonfiction books can also help students learn the *technical* and *specialized vocabulary* refer to as ‘tier 3 words’ in an authentic and inviting context.

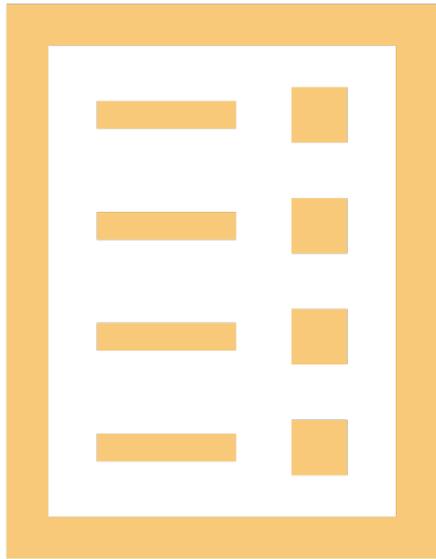


Vocabulary is often supported by *photographs, diagrams, charts, infographics*, and *other text features* that help students derive the meaning of new words.

Reading with a skeptical eye, students will realize the importance of:

1. **Evaluating** the ideas and information in a book for accuracy
2. **Determining** whether the author's conclusions are logical, reasonable, and inclusive





- **Teachers and librarians need to understand how access to expository nonfiction can help students meet the challenges of testing**
- **The more exposure, modeling, and practice students have with expository nonfiction, the better prepared students will be to apply those skills in testing situations**

Category	Pleasure Reading	Research	Mentor Text	Percentage
Active	X			10%
Browseable	X	X	X	25%
Traditional	X	X		20%
Expository	X	X	X	25%
Narrative	X		X	20%

# Reading

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5 Kinds of Nonfiction





Lifelong readers have strong reading preferences and can easily self-select books that meet their **needs** and **interest**. However, students must be given opportunities to learn this skill.



**Self-selecting a book gives students a sense of **ownership** over their reading lives, which increases their **motivation** and **comprehension**.**

Category	Student Purpose
<b>Active</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Learn a new skill</li></ul>
<b>Browseable</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Learn about a broad topic in digestible chunks or with an emphasis on visuals</li><li>• Share fascinating facts with friends</li><li>• Gather research (Later in the process)</li></ul>
<b>Traditional</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Gather research (Early in the process)</li></ul>
<b>Expository</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Understand a focused idea, such as a STEM concept</li><li>• Gather research (Later in the process)</li></ul>
<b>Narrative</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Understand a past time and place</li><li>• Understand how the personality and experiences of a person contributes to their accomplishments</li><li>• Understand the process scientists use to understand the world and how it works</li></ul>

**Traditional Nonfiction:** Ideal for the early stages of the research process because these books provide a clear, straightforward, age-appropriate overview of a broad topic, allowing students to “read around” their topic and develop a general understanding.

**Browseable Nonfiction:** Better suited for the later stages of the research process because it’s easy to locate specific bits of information. In addition, these books often contain fun facts that can enrich student writing.

**Expository Nonfiction:** Better suited for the later stages of the research process because these books contained focused information.



- In **Expository literature**, the text is often presented in distinct chunks to make it easier to read and understand.
- Expository literature may feature **dual-layer text**, which consists of short, simple main text that conveys main ideas and secondary text that provides supporting details.

Category	Text Structures
<b>Active</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sequence Structure</li></ul>
<b>Browseable</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Descriptive Text Structure</li></ul>
<b>Traditional</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Descriptive Text Structure</li></ul>
<b>Expository</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Compare and Contrast, Cause and Effect, Problem-Solution, and List Text Structures</li></ul>
<b>Narrative</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Chronological Sequence Structure</li></ul>

It is interesting that ELA standards do not include Q&A text structure which is a powerful way to organize information and provide multiple entry points to the content.

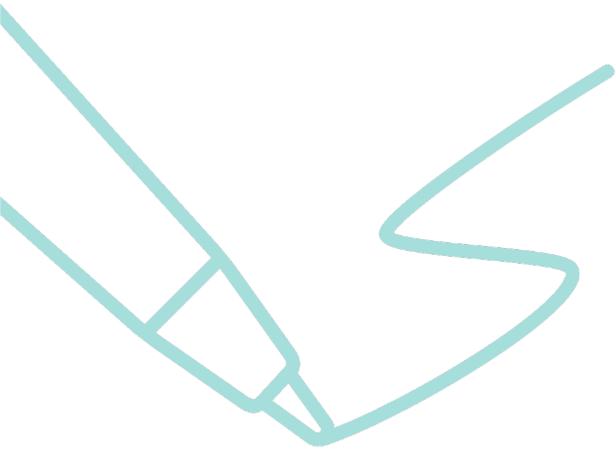
# Writing

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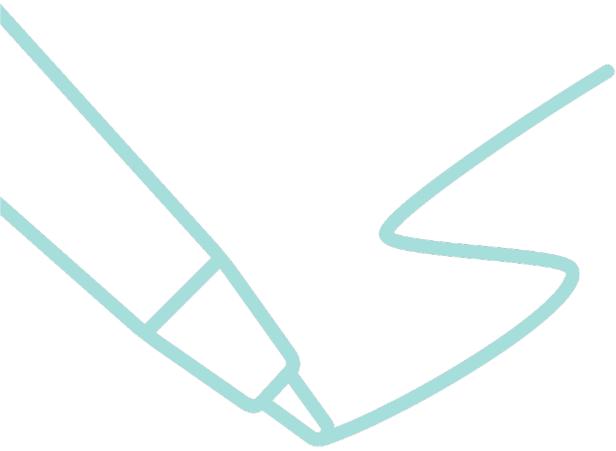


Category	Writing Purpose
<b>Active</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Use as a mentor text for writing: Procedural Writing</li></ul>
<b>Browseable</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Use as a mentor text for writing: Informational Writing</li><li>• Craft Moves for Informational Writing: Text Features, Innovative Format</li></ul>
<b>Traditional</b>	
<b>Expository</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Use as a mentor text for writing: Informational Writing</li><li>• Craft Moves for Informational Writing: Compelling Beginnings, Satisfying Endings, Text Features, Innovative Format, Text Structure, Strong Voice, Engaging Language, Points of View</li></ul>
<b>Narrative</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Use as a mentor text for writing: Personal Narratives</li><li>• Craft Moves for Informational Writing: Satisfying Endings, Strong Voice, Engaging Language, Points of View</li></ul>



When students have opportunities to practice *identifying* and *evaluating* the craftsmanship in nonfiction books, they'll begin to *integrate* these elements into their own writing.

Text Structure	Description
<b>Ladder</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The higher up the ladder, the more abstract the idea, language or thought</li><li>• The lower on the ladder, the more concrete the idea, language or thought</li></ul>
<b>Chain Reaction</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A series of events so related to each other that each one initiates the next</li></ul>
<b>Compare &amp; Contrast</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Show similarities and differences between objects, actions, ideas, or process</li></ul>
<b>Question &amp; Answer</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Organizes information and allows students to grasp the idea of more in-depth text structures</li></ul>
<b>List</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Works well on writing that focus on characteristics or behaviors</li></ul>
<b>Cause &amp; Effect</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Carries the implication that the effect is produced by a specific cause</li></ul>



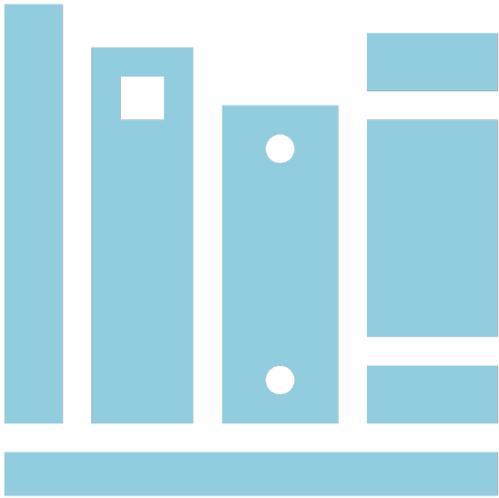
From alliteration to zeugma, there are dozens of language devices that can *enrich* students' nonfiction writing.

# Engage

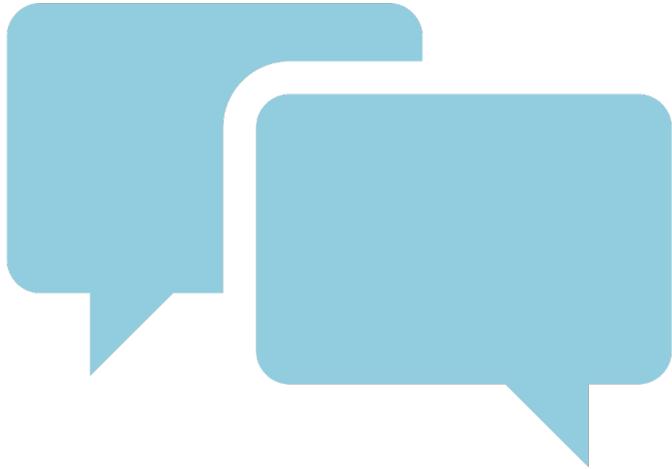
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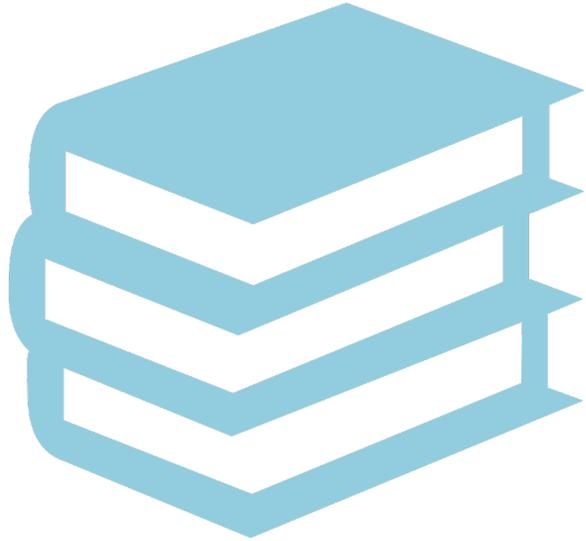


- **When nonfiction is reserved for content-area lessons, students notice, and they get the idea that the books aren't meant for everyday use**
- **Make books available by drawing attention to them through rotating book displays throughout the library or classroom**



- **Book talks are a great way to get students excited about reading nonfiction books**
- **These oral advertisements can make students aware of the wide range of available nonfiction books**

**Students can use the automated system book review feature to rate or review nonfiction titles that are read for either academic or personal purposes**



- **Allowing students to choose the books they read increases their motivation as well as their comprehension, but some struggle to find books they're passionate about**
- **A preview stack is a collection of books that can be curated for students with their interests and reading levels in mind**
- **These preview stacks can help jump-start students' reading lives**



- **Expose student to a broad “menu” of nonfiction books through a book tasting**
- **As students enter, divide them into small groups and invite the teams to rotate from table to table, reading each book’s title and first two pages**
- **Encourage the students to make a list of books they’d like to “sample” latter**



- **#classroombookaday** is a great strategy for incorporating an assortment of read-alouds into the classroom or library routine
- **Read-Alouds** take ten to fifteen minutes a day which includes a brief discussion about the nonfiction book



- **Book clubs give students an opportunity to practice life skills like taking turns, expressing opinions, listening to others, and working collaboratively**
- **This idea can include “First Read” club where a group of students have the opportunity to read new books and then report back to the rest of the class**



# Wrap-Up Talk

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What are some best practices to share this information with students and teachers?





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