

Get Real!

Kids Love Nonfiction

APS Extended Day Zoom Training July 27, 2020

Today's Agenda: Kids Love Nonfiction

- ▶ **What is it?**
 - ▶ Definition
 - ▶ Qualities
- ▶ **Why use it?**
 - ▶ Motivation
 - ▶ Reading in the real world
 - ▶ Building background knowledge and vocabulary
- ▶ **How to use it?**
 - ▶ Model and practice strategies
 - ▶ Build it into programming

The book cover features a detailed illustration of a bird's nest. The nest is constructed from a dense, intricate pattern of grey and white fibers, creating a textured, circular shape. In the center of the nest, three bright blue eggs are arranged in a triangular pattern. The title 'Nesting' is written in a large, elegant, orange-red cursive font across the upper portion of the nest. At the bottom, the author's name 'HENRY COLE' is printed in a simple, black, all-caps serif font.

Nesting

HENRY COLE

Nonfiction Is:

Writing about facts or real events.

(Fiction is something told or written that is not fact, a made-up story)

- ▶ *Nonfiction narrative*: its primary purpose is to tell about an event or series of events that have occurred.
- ▶ *Resource and Reference Books*
- ▶ *Biography and Memoir*: contains information about a single person's life
- ▶ *How-to*: it tells how to do something
- ▶ *Some Comic Books*
- ▶ Also, technically, according to libraries, *Poetry and Myths, Legends, Fairy Tales and Folktales*

What's in a name?

- ▶ Children's authors and publishers frequently play fast and loose, blending fact and fiction to create hybrids.
 - ▶ Magic School Bus books
 - ▶ Joan Sweeney's books
 - ▶ Lois Ehlert's picture books--

There is also a genre of books called historical fiction--imaginary stories set in a certain time period in the past.

Don't forget about magazines, newspapers, and the internet.

How can you tell the difference between fiction and nonfiction?

Fiction	vs.	Nonfiction
		
Literature		Informational
made up	↔	true facts
read in order	↔	read in any order
entertains readers	↔	teaches readers
illustrations	↔	photographs
characters setting		text features
problems solutions		table of contents
tells a story		photographs
animals can talk		heading
beginning, middle, ending		charts, diagrams
		labels
		captions
		index
		glossary

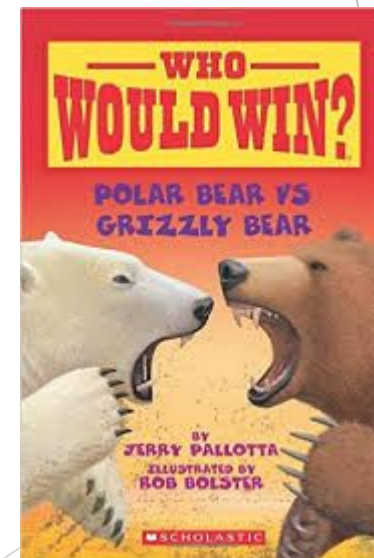
Mrs. Winters Bliss

Look for nonfiction on Start With a Book

- ▶ Look at the books the Start With a Book website. Some are labeled as fiction or nonfiction, some are not.
- ▶ Look for a nonfiction title
- ▶ Which books do you like and what don't you like?
- ▶ Think about which book might work well the your kids
- ▶ Look for imposters—books that look like nonfiction but aren't

Qualities of good nonfiction

- ▶ Engaging
- ▶ Accessible and age-appropriate
- ▶ Complex
- ▶ Accurate



Favorite Nonfiction Authors and Series

- ▶ Steve Jenkins
- ▶ Gail Gibbons
- ▶ Lois Ehlert
- ▶ Seymour Simon
- ▶ Nic Bishop
- ▶ Magic Treehouse Resource guides
- ▶ Let's Read and Find Out
- ▶ DK

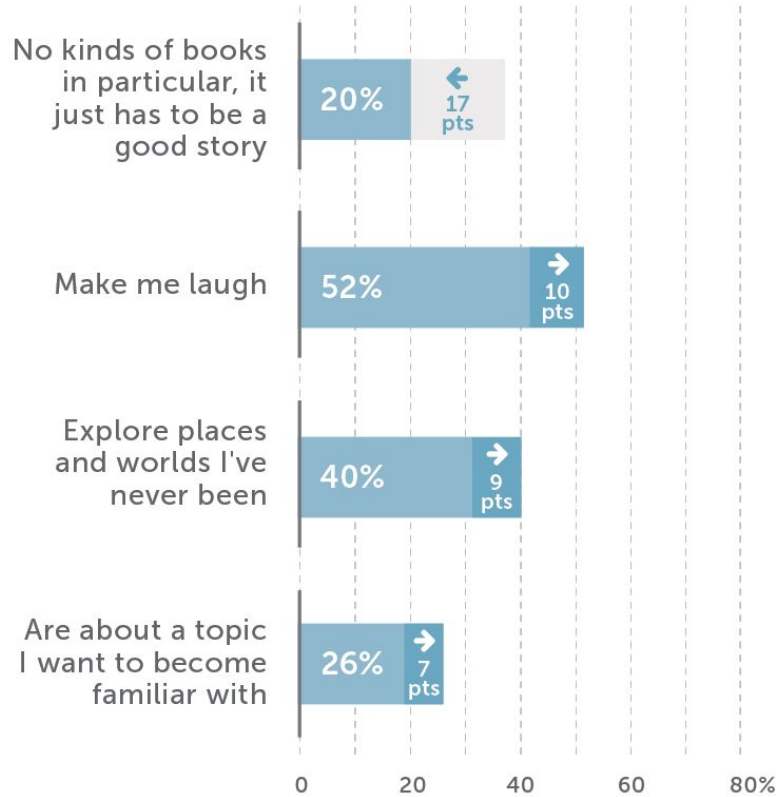
Why use nonfiction?

Not just for school success. Kids LOVE it!

- ▶ Motivation - some kids prefer it and all kids are curious
- ▶ Life skill - informational text is everywhere!
- ▶ Building background knowledge and vocabulary - informational text builds reading comprehension.
- ▶ Availability - 1/2 the library is nonfiction

What kids want in books, compared to 2016

Figure 4. Percentage of children who selected each item, compared to 2016



Base: Children ages 6–17

Kids & Family Reading Report™: 7th Edition

scholastic.com/readingreport

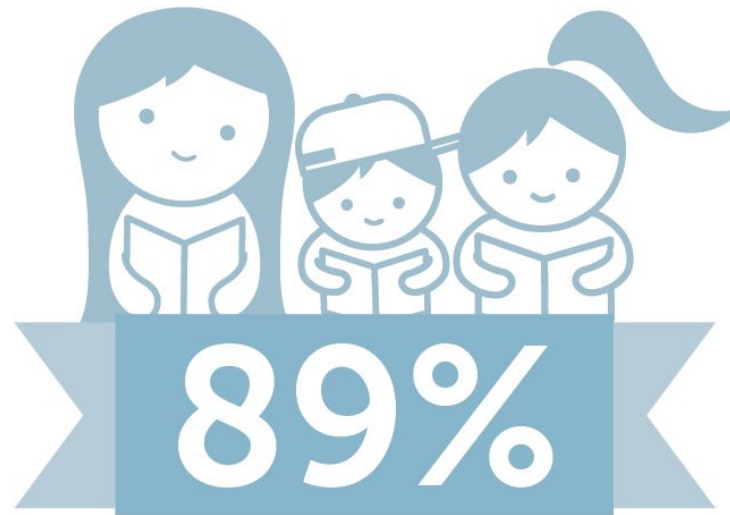


*"It's good to learn about different things to help you understand."
—11-year-old boy*

NINE IN 10 KIDS AGREE

Figure 6. Children's agreement with statement

My favorite books are the ones
that I have picked out myself



Base: Children ages 6–17

Kids & Family Reading Report™: 7th Edition

scholastic.com/readingreport

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How do you know
which topics
interest your
kids?

ASK THEM!

INTEREST INVENTORY

Grade level: (choose one) 6 7 8

Please check the type of reading you prefer: (check one)

_____ Fiction

_____ Non-Fiction

Please put a check mark in the five areas that interest you the most.

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sports & Athletes | <input type="checkbox"/> History | <input type="checkbox"/> Art & Artists |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Horror stories | <input type="checkbox"/> Science Fiction (<i>space, aliens</i>) | <input type="checkbox"/> Westerns (<i>cowboys</i>) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Music & Musicians | <input type="checkbox"/> Biographies | <input type="checkbox"/> Cars, planes, trains etc. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Crime & Detective stories | <input type="checkbox"/> Mysteries | <input type="checkbox"/> How Things Work |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Action & Adventure | <input type="checkbox"/> Humor & Funny stories | <input type="checkbox"/> How-To-Do-It books |
| <input type="checkbox"/> War | <input type="checkbox"/> Comic Books | <input type="checkbox"/> Fantasy books (<i>wizards</i>) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Travel & New Places | <input type="checkbox"/> Gaming | <input type="checkbox"/> Spy stories |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Supernatural stories (<i>ghosts</i>) | <input type="checkbox"/> Computers & Technology | <input type="checkbox"/> Government & Politics |



Reading helps children navigate the world

Figure 5. Percentage of children and parents who agree...



74%

Reading fiction and nonfiction is a way to help me/my child understand the world.

53%

There have been times when a book helped me/my child get through a difficult time.



88%

55%



Reading about current events that are happening in the world makes it easier to talk about or understand them.

Base: Children ages 6–17; Parents with kids ages 6–17

Kids & Family Reading Report™: 7th Edition

scholastic.com/readingreport

 SCHOLASTIC

Nonfiction
can help
kids
understand
current
events and
encourage
converstion

Motivation matters

- ▶ The more time a kid spends reading, the better reader he will be.
- ▶ Reading for pleasure is crucial to racking up the hours that build fluency and comprehension.
- ▶ Nonfiction may be the “the gateway” to getting some kids into reading.
- ▶ Reading and writing for real purposes engages and empowers kids, nonfiction allows kids to explore their interests.

Chemistry and staying power?

Look at the books in Start With a Book

- ▶ Which ones would be exciting to your students?
- ▶ Which ones could you use to build their background knowledge and vocabulary on a topic you will be teaching?
- ▶ Which ones would be good to use for an authentic purpose
- a project where students can read, learn and share information on a topic with their classmates or a larger audience?

How to use nonfiction in Reading Rodeo: Modeling

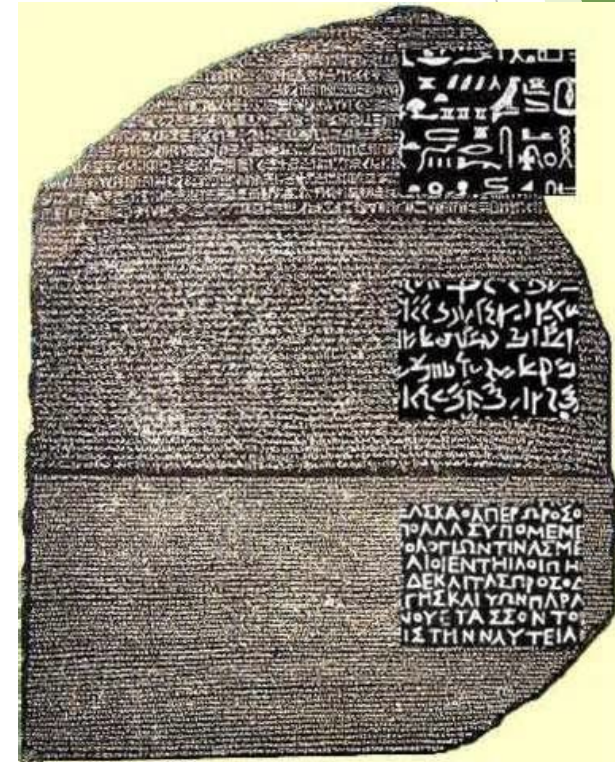
- ▶ Show students how to use the structural parts of nonfiction - logistics
- ▶ Show students how to boost their understanding of nonfiction - comprehension
- ▶ Show students how to carefully assess nonfiction - interpretation



Structure

”It has particular features like headings, indexes, diagrams, charts or tables, photos or realistic illustrations and technical vocabulary.”

- ▶ Title and subtitle
- ▶ Table of contents, chapter titles
- ▶ Headings and subheadings
- ▶ Definitions
- ▶ Index
- ▶ Glossary
- ▶ Appendices, side bars, insets and captions



Structure

- ▶ Graphics
- ▶ Charts and diagrams
- ▶ Encouraging visual thinking



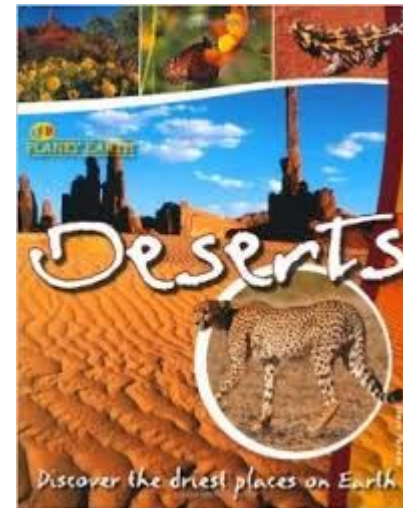
Comprehension

- ▶ Teaching unfamiliar vocabulary, academic or signal words
- ▶ Using background knowledge
- ▶ Prediction
- ▶ Main and supporting ideas
- ▶ Comprehension checks
- ▶ Asking questions
- ▶ Summarizing



Interpretation

- ▶ Questioning the author
- ▶ Point of view
- ▶ Context
- ▶ Relating the text to self, other texts or other knowledge



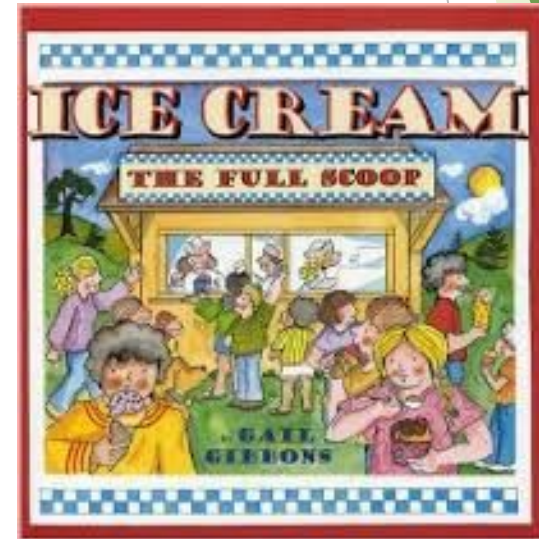
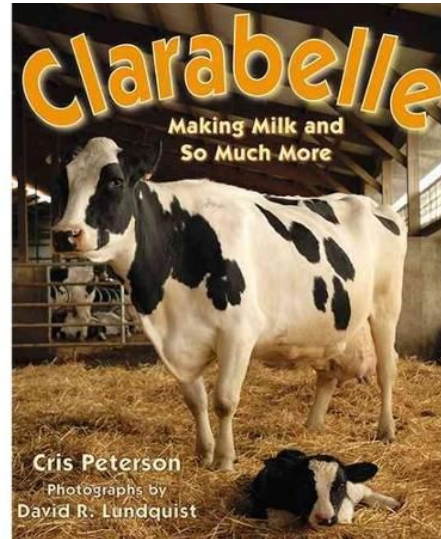
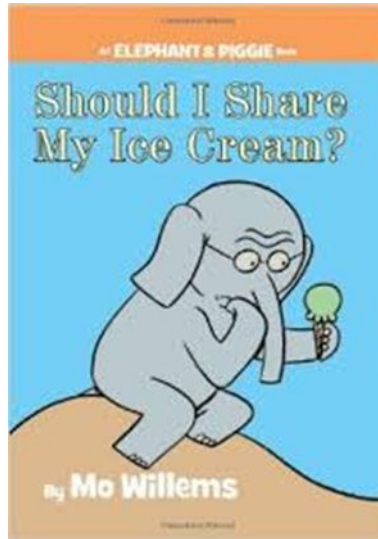
BINGO

Vocabulary and Comprehension	Graphics and Illustrations	Design Features
Teach new words in advance and Define words while reading	Use visual thinking: What do you see in this graphic? What makes you see that? What else does it show?	Use title and table of contents to get kids thinking about the topic and what they already know about it
Point out and define Signal and Academic words	Does this graphic give examples of what the words say or does it provide extra information?	Point out chapter titles, headings, subheadings and definitions
Find the main idea and point it out, then find supporting ideas and point them out	Where can I find the answer to my question? In the words? In the graphics? In my own head? By combining any of these?	Point out sidebars, insets and captions and explore the information they contain.
Check to see if kids understand what you are reading along the way	Question the picture: Does it make sense? Is it accurate? Does it support the words?	Search for answers to kids questions using the index and appendices

How to use nonfiction in Reading Rodeo: Integration

- ▶ Purposefully make time for it
 - ▶ Read it aloud
 - ▶ Make it available for independent reading
- ▶ Pair it with fiction
- ▶ Have kids use it for authentic purposes - do projects or activities that use it

Pair nonfiction with fiction



Matchmaking

- ▶ Look at Start With a Book again, and look at fiction books that you'd like to use with your nonfiction book

Reading and writing for a reason

- ▶ Create projects that give kids a real reason for reading and writing.
- ▶ Treasure Hunts
- ▶ Ask an Expert



Nonfiction at Reading Rodeo: Happily Ever After?

- ▶ What it is and isn't
 - ▶ What is YOUR definition?
 - ▶ Did you find some titles and authors you like?
- ▶ Why it matters
 - ▶ Can you give kids good reasons why they should try nonfiction beyond preparing for a test?
- ▶ How to use it
 - ▶ Can you show kids how to use informational text?
 - ▶ Can you integrate it into your programming?