Reading Non-Fiction

Reading non-fiction can help students build background knowledge, increase vocabulary, build outside interests, and become more proficient readers of content across the curriculum.

Enduring Understandings

- Different types of texts have different purposes and structures.
- Non-fiction is written for a variety of purposes.
- Non-fiction texts have special features to help make the meaning clear.
- The writer of non-fiction chooses structures, graphics, and text features to suit the purpose and audience.
- Writers use different techniques in non-fiction to get across their meaning.

Vocabulary List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Argument</th>
<th>Author’s Purpose</th>
<th>Cause and Effect</th>
<th>Chronological</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Compare and Contrast</td>
<td>Evidence</td>
<td>Expository</td>
<td>Fact</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opinion</td>
<td>Organization</td>
<td>Paraphrase</td>
<td>Persuasive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sentence Structure</td>
<td>Summary</td>
<td>Text Features</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
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Essential Questions

- Why do people write non-fiction?
- What are the characteristics of non-fiction?
- What are ways to identify a piece of writing as non-fiction?
- How is non-fiction different from fiction?
- How is reading non-fiction different from reading fiction?
- How is non-fiction like fiction?
- How does understanding the structure of the text help the reader understand the meaning?
- How does an author’s language match his or her purpose in writing?
- What questions are raised but not answered?
- What opinions of the author are expressed, and how easy are they to tell from facts?
- Why do people read non-fiction?
- Why is non-fiction an important genre of literature?
Model Children's Books

*My Brother Martin*—Christine King Farris

*Sit-In: How Four Friends Stood Up by Sitting Down*—Andrea Pickney Davis

*Bad News for Outlaws*—Vaunda Micheaux Nelson

Biography/Autobiography/Memoir Essential Questions

- Why can you trust what the author says about the person being written about?
- What opinion about the person does the author seem to express, and why do you agree or disagree with that opinion?
- What information is left out, and why?
- Why is the person’s life worth reading about?

Model Children's Books

*Miss Ladybird's Wildflowers*—Kathi Appelt

*Me... Jane*—Patrick McDonnell

*Rosa*—Nikki Giovanni

*Teedie*—Don Brown

*When Marian Sang*—Pam Munoz Ryan

Persuasion Essential Questions

- What techniques does the author use to get the reader on his or her side?
- How does the author use evidence and research to support the argument?
- How persuasive are the arguments the author makes?
- Why might people react differently to the author’s ideas?
- Why is being a careful reader of persuasive writing a valuable life skill?
Model Children’s Books

I Wanna Iguana—Orloff

Alexander and the Terrible, No Good, Very Bad Day—Viorst

Dear Mr. Blueberry—James

Can I Keep Him?—Kellogg

Duck for President—Cronin

Dear Mrs. LaRue-- Teague