Reading Informational Texts

Research has shown that older students struggle to comprehend informational, or nonfiction, texts due to a lack of exposure from an early age. The Common Core State Standards have increased the amount of informational texts that students will read, write, and consider, starting at a younger age. So what exactly is informational text?

Informational text is defined as text with the purpose of expressing information about the arts, sciences, or social studies. Informational texts include newspaper and magazine articles, online information, nonfiction books, textbooks, and reference materials. All Nomad Press books fall under one or more of the following categories of informational texts: literary nonfiction, expository, persuasive, or procedural.

- **Literary Nonfiction** texts are typically written much more like a story—like a fictional story—with a beginning, middle and end. Texts in this category include letters, speeches, essays, and biographies.
- **Expository** texts explain a specific topic. They often contain a table of contents, an index, or other navigational sections so that readers may read only the portions of the books that interest them.
- **Persuasive** texts provide evidence with the intent of influencing the beliefs or actions of the reader. They often include claims and evidence to support those claims. A persuasive text will attempt to change the reader's mind or opinion.
- **Procedural** texts offer step-by-step guidelines that describe how to complete a task. They usually include drawings and diagrams to illustrate the process.

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Books to Inspire Learning

TEACHERS' RESOURCE GUIDE

Essential Questions and Common Core Connections

Nomad Press offers concise resource guides to help educators explore content-related topics with students and encourage them to develop ideas in meaningful ways.

Knowing the purpose of a particular text and being able to identify what they want to learn will help students decide what information and ideas are most important to remember. Thinking about what they already know about a particular subject will enable students to connect new information to this prior knowledge. Previewing the text and identifying text features are crucial techniques for organizing information.

It is our goal that students learn to apply what they've learned to other texts, share their findings, and make inferences based on both new information and prior knowledge. In this way, their world will become both more fascinating and more richly explored.

Evolution: How Life Adapts to a Changing Environment

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QUESTIONS TO ASK BEFORE READING

Evolution

How does science impact your life?
How do people working alone or in groups solve everyday problems or learn through discovery?
What does scientific inquiry involve?
What kinds of questions can science answer?
What do you already know about biology and evolution?
What are the text features? How do they support understanding of the content?
What do you do when you come to a word or phrase you do not know?

QUESTIONS TO ASK DURING READING

Evolution

What would the world be like if evolution never happened?
What is variation and why is it important?
Why is mutation important for evolution?
Why are there different paths to speciation?
Why is speciation important to continued life on Earth?
What is an example of an adaptation in the human species?
Why is the structure of a tree useful for scientists who are classifying organisms according to common ancestors?
How do scientists learn about time periods that happened before written history?
How do paleontologists determine the age of a fossil?
What can we learn about the present and future of the human race by studying ancient peoples?
Why is drug resistance so dangerous?
What do we hope to learn by studying evolution?

QUESTIONS TO ASK AFTER READING

Evolution

What new information did you learn? How can you apply this information to your life?
How did this book improve your understanding of the topic?
Was there anything you learned that was surprising?
What words, phrases, or statements caught your attention?
How does this book compare to others you have read on the same topic?
How does the data support the author's perspective? Is the author convincing?
Did the author weave both fact and opinion into the book?
Do readers have the chance to make their own deductions?

COMMON CORE CONNECTIONS

For an explanation of these Common Core Connections, please visit:

nomadpress.net/resources/for-teachers/resource-guides

Grade: 11-12 Language
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.11-12.3,4,4a,4b,4c,4d,5,6

Grade: 11-12 History/Social Studies
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.11-12.1,2,3,4,5,7,8,9,10

Grade: 11-12 Reading: Informational Text
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.11-12.1,2,3,4,5,6,7,10

Grade: 11-12 Speaking & Listening
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.11-12.1,1a,1b,1c,1d,2,3,4,5,6

Grade: 11-12 Writing
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.11-12.1,2,3,4,6,7,8,9,10