



# SET 3: INFORMATIONAL TEXT

**Fiction vs. Non-Fiction**

**Main Idea (Nonfiction)**

**Non-Fiction Text Features**

# FICTION VS. NON-FICTION



## What to Know:

- Readers understand that non-fiction is about true events/things/people and fiction is writing about made-up events/ideas.
- Readers use clues from the book to identify and distinguish non-fiction from fiction texts (photographs, illustrations, magical elements).
- Books with animal characters lend themselves to discussing real vs. pretend.

## What to Say:

- “Is this book fiction or non-fiction? How do you know?”
- Using a fiction book with animals “Do real bears talk? Do real pigs build houses?” etc.
- Using a non-fiction book “This is a non-fiction book. That means it teaches readers about real things.”

## More Information:

- If you are reading realistic fiction, you may want to explain that some stories and characters seem real, like they could happen, but are made-up, so they are still fiction.
- Move on when the student can distinguish between real and pretend books with prompting.

# MAIN IDEA (NONFICTION)



## What to Know:

- Using text features (photographs titles labels) as well as words, students should be able to identify and name the main topic of a non-fiction text.

## What to Say:

- “Let’s look at the cover and photographs inside this book. What do you think this book is going to teach us about?”
- “I wonder \_\_\_\_\_. Do you think this book will teach us about that?” (ex: I wonder where penguins live, I wonder what a panda eats, etc.)
- “What is this page I just read all about?”

## More Information:

- A good time to practice this is when selecting a book to enjoy. Try picking up a book and asking your student tell you what it’s about before you begin reading. If you are reading a book about one topic (bears) versus many topics (forest animals) it will be easier for your student to identify the main topic.
- Move on when the student can name the main topic before or after reading.

# NON-FICTION TEXT FEATURES



## What to Know:

- Kindergarteners should be able to identify and name these important non-fiction text features: photos, captions, table of contents, and glossary. Name these features as you're reading together.

## What to Say:

- “Photos are pictures taken with a camera, not drawn.”
- “Captions explain more about a photo.”
- “The table of contents shows a list of topics and what page we can learn about them on.”
  - “When we read nonfiction books, we don't have to read every part. We can use the table of contents to go to the section we want to read.”
- “A glossary is like a mini-dictionary – it lists important words and tells what they mean.”
  - “This word is in bold, let's see if the meaning is explained in the glossary.”

## More Information:

- Not every nonfiction text will have every feature. You can explain to students that the author chose not to include that feature in their book and that's okay.
- Move on when the student can name and identify the features in a non-fiction text.