

5 Kinds of Nonfiction Book Lists

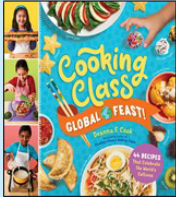
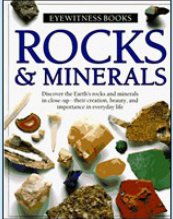
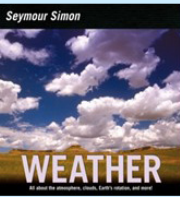
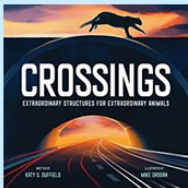
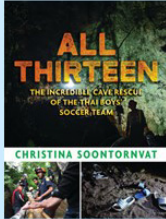


In [*5 Kinds of Nonfiction: Enriching Reading and Writing Instruction with Children's Books*](#), Marlene Correia and I provided six sample texts in each of the five categories—active, browseable, traditional, expository literature, and narrative.

We also include nine sample blended books that appeal to a broad range of readers because they have a roughly 50-50 mix of narrative and expository writing styles.

During presentations, educators have let us know that they'd like us to suggest additional sample texts for grades K-8. To honor these requests, we've provided more titles below.

5 Kinds of Nonfiction

Active	Browseable	Traditional	Expository Literature	Narrative
				
Commercial Nonfiction			Literary Nonfiction	

While we're excited to see a recent uptick in narrative nonfiction by and about Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC), there are currently very few children's books in the other categories by authors and illustrators from traditionally underrepresented and marginalized groups. As more diverse books become available, we will be updating these lists to feature a more inclusive mix of titles.

Sample **Traditional Nonfiction** Titles

Albee, Sarah. *Accidental Archeologists: Chance Discoveries that Changed the World*. New York: Scholastic, 2020.

Cherry-Paul, Sonja, Jason Reynolds, and Ibram X. Kendi. *Stamped (for Kids): Racism, Antiracism, and You*. New York: Little, Brown, 2021.

Derr, Aaron. *Sports of the Paralympic Games*. South Egremont, MA: Red Chair Press, 2020.

Dionne, Evette. *Lifting as We Climb: Black Women's Battle for the Ballot Box*. New York: Viking, 2020.

Doeden, Matt. *It's Outta Here! The Might and Majesty of the Home Run*. Minneapolis, MN: Lerner, 2021.

Doeden, Matt. *Monster Trucks*. Mankato, MN: Capstone, 2018.

Frank, Sarah. *Golden Retrievers*. Minneapolis, MN: Lerner, 2019.

Gibbons, Gail. *Coral Reefs*. New York: Holiday House, 2019.

Lawrence, Blythe. *Behind the Scenes Gymnastics*. Minneapolis, MN: Lerner, 2019.

Seifert, Christine. *Whoppers: History's Most Outrageous Lies and Liars*. San Francisco: Zest Books, 2015.

Sills, Cathryn. *Rivers and Streams*. Atlanta, GA: Peachtree, 2019.

Simon, Seymour. *Exoplanets*. New York: HarperCollins, 2018.

Treuer, Anton. *Everything You Wanted to Know about Indians But Were Afraid to Ask Young Readers Edition*. New York: Levine Querido, 2021.

Tyner, Artika R. *Black Lives Matter: From Hashtag to the Streets*. Minneapolis, MN: Lerner, 2021.

Young, Karen Romano. *Shark Quest: Protecting the Oceans Top Predators*. Minneapolis, MN: Lerner, 2022.

Sample **Browseable Nonfiction** Titles

Albee, Sarah. *North America: A Fold-Out Graphic History*. London: What on Earth Books, 2019.

Drimmer, Stephanie Warren. *The Book of Queens: Legendary Leaders, Fierce Females, and Wonder Women Who Ruled the World*. Washington, D.C.: National Geographic, 2019.

Duprat, Guillaume. *Eye Spy: Wild Ways Animals See the World*. London: What on Earth Books, 2018.

Editors of TIME for Kids. *Big Book of WHY Revised and Updated*. New York: Time for Kids, 2016.

Grossman, Emily. *What Breathes Through Its Butt? Mind-Blowing Science Questions Answered*. New York: Bloomsbury, 2020.

Guinness World Records. *Guinness World Records 2021*. New York: Guinness World Records, 2020.

Harrison, Vashti. *Little Dreamers Visionary Women Around the World*. New York: Little, Brown, 2018.

Henderson, Leah. *Together We March: 25 Protest Movements that March into History*. New York: Atheneum, 2021.

Ignotofsky, Rachel. *Women in Art: 50 Fearless Creatives Who Inspired the World*. Berkeley, CA: Ten Speed, 2019.

Jenkins, Steve. *The Animal Book: A Collection of the Fastest, Fiercest, Toughest, Cleverest, Shyest—and Most Surprising—Animals on Earth*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2013.

Lowery, Mike. *Everything Awesome About Sharks and Other Underwater Creatures!* New York: Orchard, 2020.

Rocco, John. *How We Got to the Moon: The People, Technology, and Daring Feats of Science Behind Humanity's Greatest Adventure*. New York: Crown, 2020.

Socha, Piotr. *Trees: A Rooted History*. New York: Abrams, 2019.

St. Fleur, Nicholas. *Did You Know? Dinosaur*. New York: DK, 2020.

Williams, Titus D. *Day in the Life Bigs Cats: What Do Lions, Tigers, and Panthers Get Up to All Day?* New York: Neon Squid, 2022.

Sample Narrative Nonfiction Titles

Burgess, Matthew. *Drawing on Walls: The Story of Keith Haring*. New York: Enchanted Lion, 2020.

Cline-Ransome, Lesa. *Game Changers: The Story of Venus and Serena Williams*.

Denise, Anika Aldamuy. *Planting Stories: The Life of Librarian and Storyteller Pura Belpré*. New York: HarperCollins, 2019.

Fleming, Candace. *Honeybee: They Busy Life of Apis mellifera*. New York: Neal Porter Books, 2020.

Jarrow, Gail. *Spooked! How a Radio Broadcast and The War of the Worlds Sparked the 1938 Invasion of America*. Honesdale, PA: Calkins Creek, 2018.

Levinson, Cynthia. *The People's Painter: How Ben Shahn Fought for Justice with Art*. New York: Abrams, 2021.

Montgomery, Heather L. *Something Rotten: A Fresh Look at Roadkill*. New York: Bloomsbury, 2019.

Nargi, Lela. *Karl's New Beak: 3-D Printing Builds a Bird a Better life*. North Mankato, MN: Capstone, 2019.

Riley, Scott. *The Floating Field: How a Group of Thai Boys Built Their Own Soccer Field*. Minneapolis, MN: Millbrook, 2021.

Soontornvat, Christina. *All Thirteen: The Incredible Cave Rescue of the Thai Boys' Soccer Team*. Somerville, MA: Candlewick, 2020.

Valdez, Patricia. *Joan Proctor, Dragon Doctor: The Woman Who Loved Reptiles*. New York: Knopf, 2018.

Tate, Don. *William Still and His Freedom Stories: The Father of the Underground Railroad*. Atlanta: Peachtree, 2020.

Tonatiuh, Duncan. *Soldier for Equality: José de la luz Sáenz and the Great War*. New York: Abrams, 2019.

Wallmark, Laurie. *Hedy Lamarr's Double Life: Hollywood Legend and Brilliant Inventor*. New York: Sterling, 2019.

Weatherford, Carole Boston. *Unspeakable: The Tulsa Race Massacre*. Minneapolis, MN: Millbrook, 2021.

Sample Expository Literature Titles

Atkins, Marcie Flinchum. *Wait, Rest, Pause: Dormancy in Nature*. Minneapolis, MN: Millbrook, 2019.

Duffield, Katy S. *Crossings: Extraordinary Structures for Extraordinary Animals*. San Diego: Beach Lane, 2020

Fishman, Seth. *A Hundred Billion Trillion Stars*. New York: Greenwillow, 2017.

Guillian, Charlotte. *The Street Beneath My Feet*. London: words & pictures, 2017.

Judge, Lita. *Homes in the Wild: Where Baby Animals and Their Parents Live*. New York: Roaring Brook, 2019.

Keating, Jess. *Pink Is for Blobfish: Discovering the World's Perfectly Pink Animals*. New York: Knopf, 2016.

Markle, Sandra. *What If You Had T. rex Teeth? And Other Dinosaur Parts*. New York: Scholastic, 2019.

McGill, Erin. *If You Want a Friend in Washington: Wacky, Wild & Wonderful Presidential Pets*. New York: Schwartz & Wade, 2020.

Messner, Kate. *The Next President: The Unexpected Beginnings and Unwritten Future of America's Presidents*. San Francisco, CA: Chronicle, 2021.

Montgomery, Heather L. *What's in Your Pocket?: Collecting Nature's Treasures*. Watertown, MA: Charlesbridge, 2021.

Page, Robin. *The Beak Book*. San Diego: Beach Lane, 2021.

Roth, Susan L. *Birds of a Feather: Bowerbirds and Me*. New York, Neal Porter Books, 2019.

Sanchez, Anita. *Rotten: Vultures, Beetles, Slime and Nature's Other Decomposers*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2019.

Sorell, Traci. *We Are Grateful: Otsaliheliga*. Watertown, MA: Charlesbridge, 2018.

Shreeve, Elizabeth. *Out of the Blue*. Somerville, MA: Candlewick, 2021.

Sample **Active Nonfiction** Titles

Alderfer, Jonathan. *National Geographic Kids Bird Guide of North America: Second Edition*. Washington, D.C.: National Geographic, 2018.

Burns, Loree Griffin. *You're Invited to a Moth Ball*. Watertown, MA: Charlesbridge, MA, 2020.

Butterworth, Chris. *Where Did My Clothes Come From?* Somerville, MA: Candlewick,

Bauer, Joy. *Yummy Yoga: Playful Poses and Tasty Treats*. New York, Abrams, 2019.

Carson, Mary Kay. *Wildlife Ranger Action Guide: Track, Spot & Provide Healthy Habitat for Creatures Close to Home*. North Adams, MA: Storey, 2020.

Cook, Deanna F. *Cooking Class Global Feast! 44 Recipes that Celebrate the World's Cultures*. North Adams, MA: Storey, 2019.

Dewar, Andrew. *Ultimate Paper Airplanes for Kids*. North Clarendon, VT, 2015.

Hackett, Jennifer. *Super Hero Science*. New York: Downtown Bookworks, 2019.

Lisle, Andria. *Sewing School: 21 Sewing Projects Kids Will Love to Make*.

Masiello, Ralph. *Ralph Masiello's Alien Drawing Book*. Watertown, MA: Charlesbridge, 2019.

Moore, Arden. *A Kids' Guide to Dogs: How to Train, Care for, Play and Communicate with Your Amazing Pet*. North Adams, MA: Storey, 2020.

Morgan, Dan. *Minecraft: The Official Joke Book*. New York: Random House, 2021.

Rissman, Rebecca. *Hair-Raising Hairstyles that Make a Statement*. Mankato, MN: Compass Point Books, 2018.

Swanson, Jennifer. *Rock, Fossil, and Shell Hunting: The Definitive Interactive Nature Guide*. New York: Odd Dot, 2021.

Szymanski, Jennifer *Code This! Puzzles, Games, Challenges, and Computer Coding Concepts for the Problem Solver in You*. Washington, D.C.: National Geographic, 2019.

Sample **Blended Nonfiction** Titles

Buhrmann-Deever, Susannah. *If You Take Away the Otter*. Somerville, MA: Candlewick, 2020.

Castaldo, Nancy F. *Sniffer Dogs: How Dogs (and their Noses) Save the World*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2014.

Fleming Candace *Giant Squid*. New York: Roaring Brook, 2016.

Johnson, Rebecca L. *Masters of Disguise: Amazing Animal Tricksters*. Minneapolis, MN: Millbrook, 2016.

Johnson, Rebecca L. *When Lunch Fights Back: Wickedly Clever Animal Defenses*. Minneapolis, MN: Millbrook, 2014.

Johnson, Rebecca L. *Zombie Makers: True Stories of Nature's Undead*. Minneapolis, MN: Millbrook, 2012.

Li, Amanda. *Rise Up: Ordinary Kids with Extraordinary Stories*. Kansas City, MO: Andrews McMeel, 2020.

Markle, Sandra. *Animals to the Rescue! Amazing True Stories from Around the World*. Minneapolis, MN: Millbrook, 2021.

Markle, Sandra. *The Great Monkey Rescue: Saving the Golden Lion*. Minneapolis, MN: Millbrook, 2015.

Markle, Sandra. *Snowy Owl Invasion: Tracking an Unusual Migration*. Minneapolis, MN: Millbrook, 2017.

Roy, Katherine. *How to Be an Elephant*. New York: David Macaulay Studio, 2017)

Roy, Katherine. *Neighborhood Sharks: Hunting with the Great Whites of California's Farallon Islands*. New York: David Macaulay Studio, 2012.

Stewart, Melissa and Steve Brusatte. *Pinocchio Rex and Other Tyrannosaurs*. New York: HarperCollins, 2017.

Stewart, Melissa. *Hurricane Watch*. New York: HarperCollins, 2015.