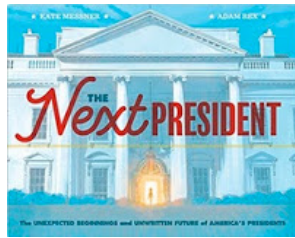
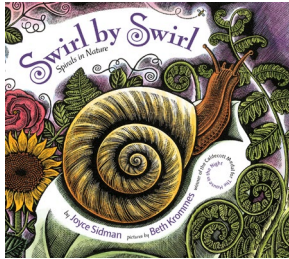


Other Text Structures to Consider

Most state ELA state standards currently emphasize five major nonfiction text structures—description, sequence, compare & contrast, problem-solutions, and cause and effect. But the truth is that’s just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to text structure.



Some books include a one-of-a-kind text structure that perfectly reflects its concept and content. One of my favorite examples is *Swirl by Swirl: Spirals in Nature* by Joyce Sidman, which has a brilliant spiraling text structure. In *The Next President: The Unexpected Beginnings and Unwritten Future of America’s Presidents*, Kate Messner uses an innovative chain-reaction sequence text structure to highlight

that at any given time in U.S. history, there is one president running the country and many future presidents preparing for their role—even though they don’t know it yet.

When it comes to children’s literature, there are two common nonfiction text structures that really should receive more attention—list and question and answer.

List Text Structure

In a “list book,” the main idea is presented on the first double-page spread. Then each subsequent spread offers one or more examples that support that idea. In many cases, a list book has a concluding spread that links back to the opening or offers a fun twist on the topic, leaving readers with a sense of satisfaction. A list text structure works especially well for books that focus on plant or animal characteristics, adaptations, or behaviors. Here are some great examples:



Birds of Every Color by Sneed B. Collard III

An Egg Is Quiet by Dianna Hutts Aston

Mama Dug a Little Den by Jennifer Ward

Homes in the Wild: Where Baby Animals and Their Parents Live by Lita Judge

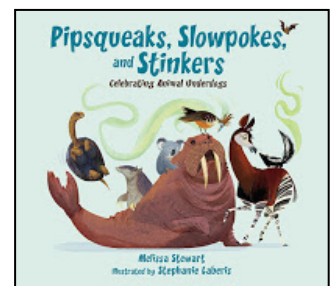
Look at Me! How to Attract Attention in the Animal World by Steve Jenkins

Pink Is for Blobfish: Discovering the World’s Perfectly Pink Animals by Jess Keating

Pipsqueaks, Slowpokes, and Stinkers: Celebrating Animal Underdogs by Melissa Stewart

Seashells: More than a Home by Melissa Stewart

She Persisted: 13 American Women Who Changed the World by Chelsea Clinton



This Is How We Do It: One Day in the Lives of Seven Kids from Around the World by Matt Lamothe

Question and Answer Text Structure

Not only is Q&A a powerful way to organize information, it can also add a fun, interactive game-like quality to a book. And that's not all. Because the Q&A format is easy for even young children to identify, it's a great window into text structures. It can help students get their feet wet before immersing themselves in text structures that are more difficult to grasp and differentiate. Here are some great examples:



Bone by Bone: Comparing Animal Skeletons by Sara Levine

Can an Aardvark Bark? by Melissa Stewart

Do Sharks Glow in the Dark? . . . and Other Shark-tastic Questions by Mary Kay Carson

Fossil by Fossil: Comparing Dinosaur Bones by Sara Levine

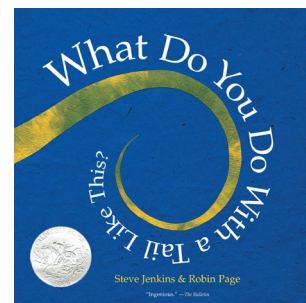
Hatch! by Roxie Munro

Hello, Bumblebee Bat by Darrin Lunde

How Many Ways Can You Catch a Fly? by Steve Jenkins & Robin Page

Tooth by Tooth: Comparing Fangs, Tusks, and Chompers by Sara Levine

What Do You Do with a Tail Like This? by Steve Jenkins & Robin Page



What Do You Do with a Tail Like This? to Expect When You're Expecting Larvae: A Guide for Insect Parents (and Curious Kids) by Bridget Heos