New Trends in Children’s Expository Literature

Dr. Terrell A. Young
Brigham Young University
terrell_young@byu.edu

Expository literature is writing that explains, describes, or informs with “superior or lasting artistic merit” (Stewart & Young, in press).

The Most Common Expository Text Structures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cause and Effect</td>
<td>Ideas, events, or facts are presented as causes in conjunction with the resulting outcomes or effects.</td>
<td><em>If Sharks Disappeared</em> by Lily Williams, 2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>Compare and Contrast</td>
<td>Similarities and differences are presented for two or more topics or concepts.</td>
<td><em>Born in the Wild: Baby Mammals and Their Parents</em> by Lita Judge, 2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>Description</td>
<td>General information about a topic is provided.</td>
<td><em>A Seed Is Sleepy</em> by Diana Aston, 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Problem and Solution</td>
<td>A problem is presented followed by one or more solutions.</td>
<td><em>Boy, Were We Wrong About Dinosaurs</em> by Kathleen Kudlinksi, 2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Question and Answer</td>
<td>Questions are posed and then followed by answers.</td>
<td><em>Can an Aardvark Bark?</em> by Melissa Stewart, 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sequence</td>
<td>Events are described in numerical or chronological order.</td>
<td><em>How to Swallow a Pig: Step-by-Step Advice from the Animal Kingdom</em> by Steve Jenkins and Robin Page, 2015</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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**Cause and Effect**
*Aliens from Earth: When Animals and Plants Invade Other Ecosystems* by Mary Batten, 2016

*Earth: Feeling the Heat.* By Brenda Z. Guiberson, 2010

**Compare and Contrast**
*Lesser Spotted Animals: The Coolest Creatures You’ve Never Heard Of* by Martin Brown


*Neo Leo: The Ageless Ideas of Leonardo Da Vinci* by Gene Baretta, 2009


*What Makes a Monster? Discovering the World’s Scariest Creatures* by Jess Keating, 2017

*Feathers: Not Just for Flying* by Melissa Stewart, 2014

**Description**

*Human Body Theater: A Nonfiction Revue* by Maris Wicks, 2015

*Look Up! Bird-watching in Your Own Backyard* by Annette Leblanc Cate, 2013

*Tiny Creatures: The World of Microbes* by Nicola Davies, 2014

**Problem & Solution**

*A Place for Butterflies* by Melissa Stewart, 2014

*A Place for Frogs* by Melissa Stewart, 2010

*The Great Monkey Rescue: Saving the Golden Lion Tamarins* by Sandra Markle, 2015

**Question & Answer**

*Creature Features : 25 Animals Explain Why They Look the Way They Do* by Steve Jenkins and Robin Page, 2014

*Who Am I? An Animal Guessing Game* by Steve Jenkins and Robin Page, 2017

*What to Expect When You’re Expecting Larvae: A Guide for Insect Parents (and Curious Kids)* by Bridget Heos, 2010
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Sequence
Poison: Deadly Deeds, Perilous Professions, and Murderous Medicines by Sarah Albee, 2017


No Monkeys, No Chocolate by Melissa Stewart, 2013

Resources for Finding Good Expository Text
The sources listed below generally include a good mix of notable narrative and expository nonfiction.

• AAAS/Subaru Prizes for Excellence in Science Books
  http://www.sbfonline.com/Subaru/Pages/PastWinners.aspx

• California Reading Association Eureka! Nonfiction Children’s Book Award

• Cook Prize for STEM Picture Book
  https://www.bankstreet.edu/center-childrens-literature/cook-prize/

• Cooperative Children’s Book Center Choices List
  http://ccbc.education.wisc.edu/books/choices.asp

• Cybils Nonfiction Awards
  http://www.cybils.com/

• NCTE Orbis Pictus Award for Outstanding Nonfiction for Children
  http://www.ncte.org/awards/orbispictus

• Nerdy Book Club Book Awards
  https://nerdybookclub.wordpress.com/

Three well respected blogs showcase exceptional expository nonfiction as well as outstanding narrative nonfiction:

• Nonfiction Detectives
  www.nonfictiondetectives.com

• Nonfiction Picture Book Challenge, Wednesdays on Kidlit Frenzy
  http://www.kidlitfrenzy.com

• Celebrate Science
  https://celebratescience.blogspot.com