

Text Features

Your child also needs to know about text features to understand how text is organized and to make meaning from the information presented.

Some examples of text features are

- table of contents
- index
- photographs and pictures
- headings and titles
- use of colour
- size of print
- italic and bold print
- labels and captions
- diagrams and graphs
- charts and maps

How to help your child

- Give your child lots of opportunity to choose from a wide range of books or magazines (library cards, subscriptions, book clubs, second-hand bookstores, flea markets).
- Talk to your child about what he or she is reading at school and at home.
- Talk to your child about what you are reading.
- Show your child many purposes for reading.
- Show your child many forms of reading materials around your home (newspapers, flyers, catalogues, magazines, Internet, TV guides).



This pamphlet is part of a series to inform parents about the Nova Scotia Department of Education Public School Program for students in grades 3–6.

For more information, contact your child's teacher.

Let's talk about ...



Books in Grades 3–6 Classrooms



The Atlantic Canada English language arts curriculum is shaped by a vision of enabling and encouraging students to become reflective, articulate, literate individuals who use language successfully for learning and communicating in personal and public contexts.

Let's talk about ...

Books in Grades 3–6 Classrooms

A wide range of books are available in grades 3–6 classrooms today. Your child is learning how to make wise choices so that the book he or she chooses is of high interest and is a good match for his or her current reading ability. Your child is also learning to recognize different purposes for reading such as to read for pleasure, to follow directions, or to find out information.

Fiction

Fiction is usually thought of as imagined rather than real. Fiction text is used to tell a story or stimulate a reader's imagination.

Some elements of fiction are

- setting
- character
- plot
- theme
- point of view
- illustrations
- dialogue

Non-Fiction

Non-fiction text provides factual information through text and images. Non-fiction text is used to communicate information.

Some elements of non-fiction are

- facts
- concepts/ideas
- principles
- references
- explanations
- instructions

Genre

Different types of text are grouped by genre based on their characteristics.

Examples of categories of genre include

- folk tales, fables, myths, and legends
- mysteries
- poetry
- fantasy
- realistic fiction
- science fiction
- historical fiction
- biography
- autobiography

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