

Get the Facts!

A Dozen Ideas for Connecting Nonfiction, Informational Reading, and Literature for Youth

Annette Lamb, Ph.D., IUPUI - SOIC - Dept of Lib & Info Science



- ✱ **1) Select books with the AAAs: authenticity, appeal, & appropriateness.**
Bring information alive by combining authenticity with reader appeal and age appropriate content.
Courage Has No Color: The True Story of the Triple Nickles (2013) by Tanya Lee Stone
- ✱ **2) Stress Narrative Nonfiction**
Promote nonfiction that reads like a novel to attract fiction readers. Expand the experience with informational books. *Charles and Emma: The Darwins' Leap of Faith (2009) by Deborah Heiligman*
- ✱ **3) Focus on Text Complexity.**
Match books with readers based on quality aspects (levels of meaning), quantity aspects (readability), and reader/task variables (motivation, questions). *The Invincible Microbe: Tuberculosis and the Never-Ending Search for a Cure (2012) by Jim Murphy and Alison Blank*
- ✱ **4) Address Reluctant Readers.**
Focus on popular topics that jumpstart interest. Use infographics to extend the experience. Encourage youth to create their own with tools like Piktochart. *The LEGO Ideas Book (2011) by Daniel Lipkowitz*
- ✱ **5) Pair Fiction & Nonfiction**
Help youth distinguish fact from fiction by pairing compelling novels with engaging informational texts. *Code Name Verity (2012) by Elizabeth Wein. Women Heroes of World War II (2011) by Kathryn J. Atwood*
- ✱ **6) Provide Many Ways of Experiencing.**
Consider books that present information in a variety of ways such as paintings, drawing, cartoons, historical documents, and photos.
Houdini: The Handcuff King (2008) by Jason Lutes and Nick Bertozzi
- ✱ **7) Explore Multiple Perspectives.**
Provide works that contain multiple perspectives and different ways of presenting information for a particular topic. Use social media tools like GoodReads to discuss and compare findings.
Amelia Lost: The Life and Disappearance of Amelia Earhart (2011) by Candace Fleming
- ✱ **8) Cluster Related Works**
Address standards that require students to compare texts and build arguments through the use of multiple different texts and infographics. Involve students in building infographics to share understandings using a tool like Piktochart.
Flesh and Blood So Cheap: The Triangle Fire and Its Legacy (2011) by Albert Marrin
- ✱ **9) Connect Books to Real-World.**
Encourage youth to try out the ideas in books they read. Use digital cameras to record their real-world science projects.
Citizen Scientists: Be a Part of Scientific Discovery in Your Own Backyard (2012) by Loree Griffin Burns
- ✱ **10) Select Quality Series.**
Use series books to hook youth on science and other subjects. Use the real-world project websites such as <http://kakaporecovery.org.nz/> for authenticity. Smithsonian in the Field book series such as *Kakapo Rescue: Saving the World's Strangest Parrot (2011) by Sy Montgomery*
- ✱ **11) Compare Two Books.**
Provide youth with two different approaches to the same topic. Compare them on a concept map in bubbl.us.
Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass: The Story Behind an American Friendship (2012) by Russell Freedman. The Hammer and the Anvil: Frederick Douglass, Abraham Lincoln, and the End of Slavery in America (2012) by Dwight Jon Zimmerman
- ✱ **12) Identify Graphic Nonfiction**
Use graphic biographies to think differently about writing about people. Use Comic Life software to create graphic biographies.
Anne Frank: The Anne Frank House Authorized Graphic Biography by Sid Jacobson and Ernie Colon

This poster is based on a successful graduate course in nonfiction literature for youth.

For more information email anlamb@iupui.edu or go to the course materials at <http://eduscapes.com/nonfiction>