



Get Set for Summer Reading

When school's over,

reading is not!

Be on the lookout for the Summer Reading Lists. They will be posted soon.

The Summer Reading Lists have been updated so please be sure to discuss the titles and requirements with your students.

Also, please note that the Literacy Calendars have been updated. Some links have been added to enhance the fun!



Collaborative Comprehension Comprehension Spot Light: Informational Text

3.RIT.5 - Use text features and search tools (e.g., key words, sidebars, hyperlinks) to locate information relevant to a given topic efficiently.

Informational Text Features: Informational text provides factual information through written text and visual text features. Authors include visual text features to help the reader better comprehend what they have read. Understanding text features enables the reader to identify the big ideas and topics that the author is presenting. Students need to understand how visual features support the written text.

Text Connection: The Pearson Leveled Readers are an excellent resource when introducing text features. Highlighted features are listed on the back cover making it easy to determine which titles focus on specific features. For example: [A Citizen of the United States](#) and [What It Means to Be a Citizen](#) by L. Sintetos are great books for introducing table of contents, headings, bold print, and glossary. Access the link below for a graphic organizer (and other Beth Newingham activities) to help students develop an understanding of how each text feature supports comprehension.

[Text Features](#)



Working with Words: Word Ladders

Looking for a way to improve students' decoding, spelling and vocabulary skills? According to Timothy Rasinski, Word Ladders are an excellent way to improve these skills. As students make new words by adding, removing or rearranging letters they analyze sound-symbol relationships improving their ability to decode and spell. Once the students understand the concept, this activity may be placed in a center with magnetic letters! Access the link below for sample Word Ladders. (Please access this link using Mozilla Firefox.)

<http://www.scholasticdealer.com/prodimages/sample/507476.pdf>



Technology for Teachers

Informational Text

Access the links below for a smartboard lesson and interactive jeopardy game on nonfiction text features. Have fun!

[Text Features](#)

[Jeopardy Game](#)

Word Ladders

Access the links below for additional suggestions for making Word Ladders!

[Word Ladders 1-3](#)

[Word Ladders 3-6](#)

The Writing Lab



Subheadings

When choosing minilessons for Writer's Workshop, teachers want to lift their students' writing with powerful, effective writing lessons. The book *Nonfiction Craft Lessons: Teaching Informational Writing K-8*, by Ralph Fletcher and Joann Portalupi, is an excellent resource to assist with this goal.

One such lesson for grades 3&4 explains that students can use subheadings to organize their informational writing. Ralph Fletcher and Joann Portalupi state: "Subheadings help you structure or 'chunk' your material. They help keep you organized when you write."

These authors suggest using a nonfiction picture book such as *The Top of the World: Climbing Mt. Everest* by Steve Jenkins to discuss how and why authors use subheadings. Any nonfiction book can be used as a mentor text for this lesson, and the Pearson Leveled Readers are a good resource.

Read the nonfiction book to the class and then discuss each subheading. For example, the first subheading in *A Citizen of the United States* by L. Sintetos is "Being a Citizen." Then, the paragraph defines what is meant by the word citizen.

After the minilesson, have students try writing subheadings for their nonfiction pieces.



Book Corner

Let's read some nonfiction!

The *National Geographic Kids Everything* series offers several good choices for our students. They can read and enjoy books about Big Cats, Dolphins, Sharks, Weather, and Egypt (just to name a few).

This series has books at various levels for advanced, on grade level, and struggling readers. Give this series a try!

[National Geographic Kids Everything Series](#)