



Rollins Center
for Language & Literacy

*Empowering Children's Lives
Through Language*

**Building World Knowledge and Comprehension:
Authentic Ways to Use Informational Texts
that Engage the Curiosity of Young Children**



Calphalon Unison Slide Nonstick Griddle & Sear Nonstick Grill Pan Set



Suggested Retail Price: \$300.00

Chobani Yogurt



Suggested Retail
Price: \$1.33

Christian Louboutin Black Patent Leather Pumps



Suggested Retail Price: \$625.00

World Knowledge

**World Knowledge
Makes You a
WINNER!**



World Knowledge

“Jones sacrificed and knocked in a run.”

E.D Hirsh, 2003

“I wanted to take a vacation in Mexico this year, but my wife can only be away from her job in July.”

E. D. Hirsh, 2003

“Gigantic and luminous, the earliest star formed like a pearl inside shells of swirling gas.”

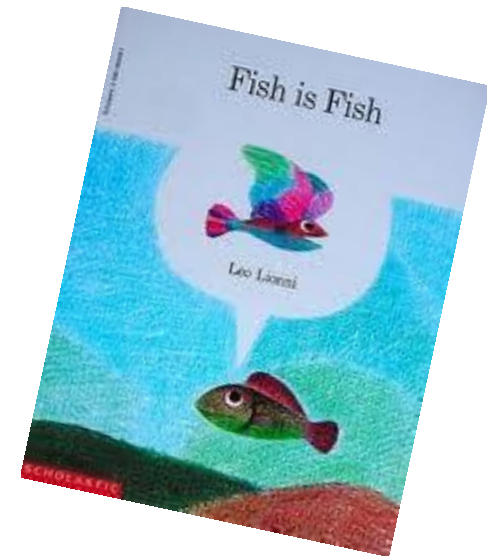
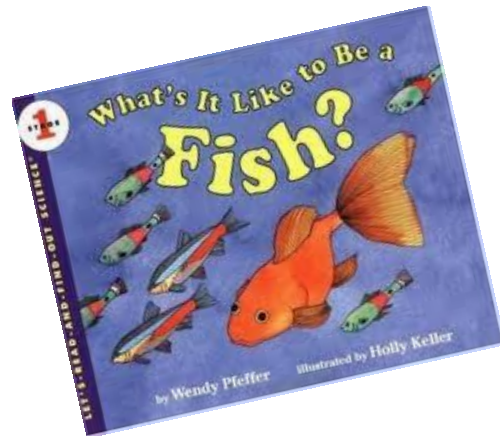
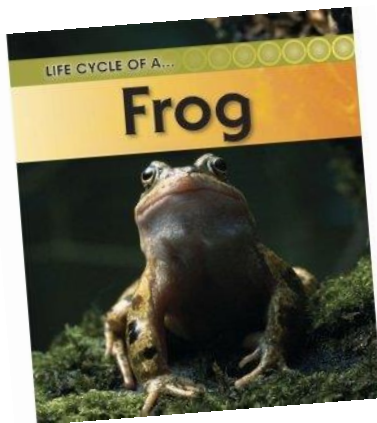
(National Geographic, February 2003)

World Knowledge Is...

...knowledge about the world we take with us to a book

J. Schickedanz (1999)

...knowledge that helps a child understand a complex or sophisticated storybook.



Informational Texts

- Convey information about the natural or social world
- Used to get information you want or need to know
- Written by someone who knows for someone who doesn't know
(Duke, 2012)

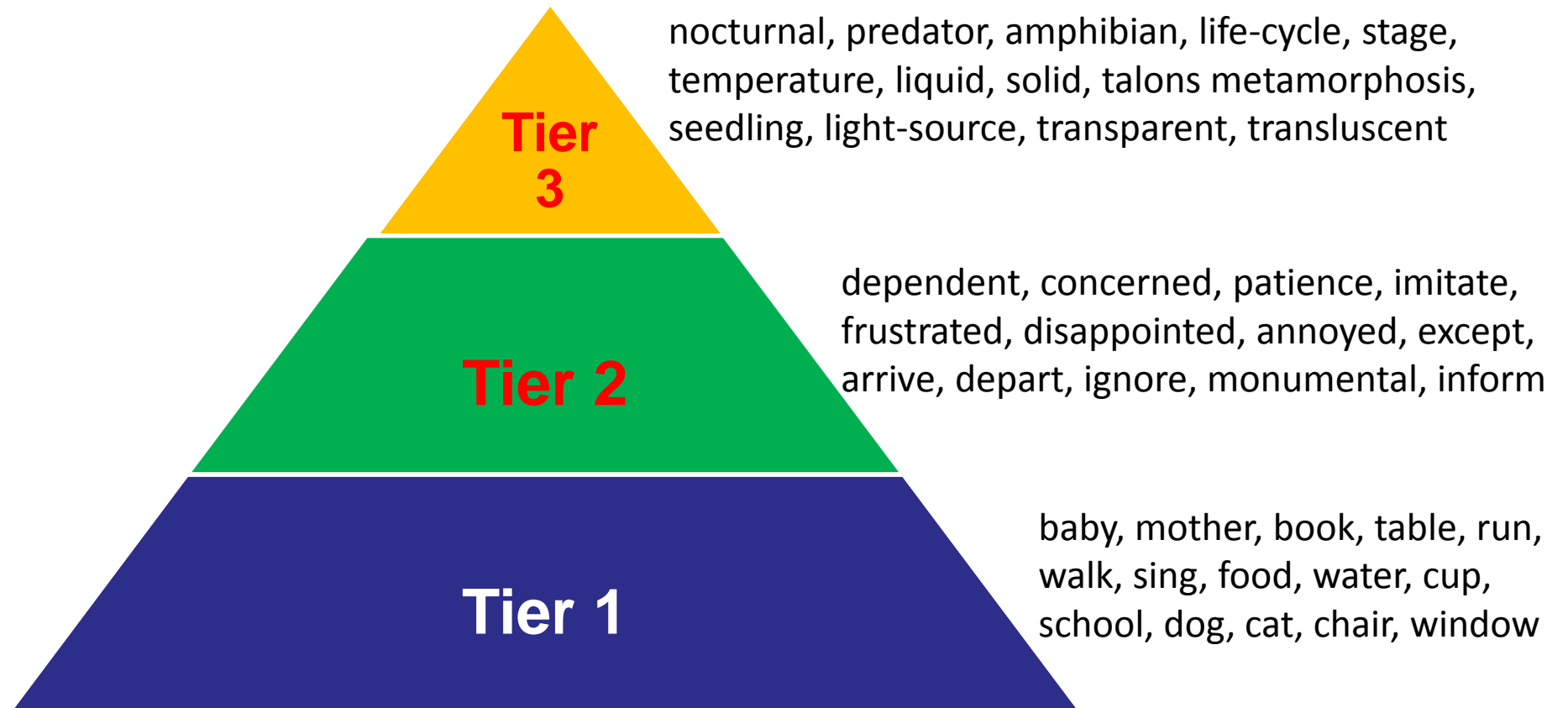
Characteristics of informational texts?

Informational texts include:

- Timeless verb & generic nouns (birds eat insects vs. the bird is eating an insect.)
- Content specific vocabulary (tier 3 words: nocturnal, planet, life-cycle)
- Specific text structures (TEXT TOOLS: table of contents, glossary, headings, etc.)
- Graphical devices (photographs, diagrams, etc.)

Characteristics of Informational Texts

- Informational texts help build vocabulary (i.e., tier 3 and tier 2)



Characteristics of Informational Texts

- Tools for finding information
 - index, glossary, table of contents, headings, etc.
- Graphical devices (provide information)
 - photographs, diagrams, text boxes, charts, etc.

Why Read Informational Texts with Young Children?

As children transition from learning to read to reading to learn, the majority of books they read will be informational texts.

Sanacore & Palumbo (2009)



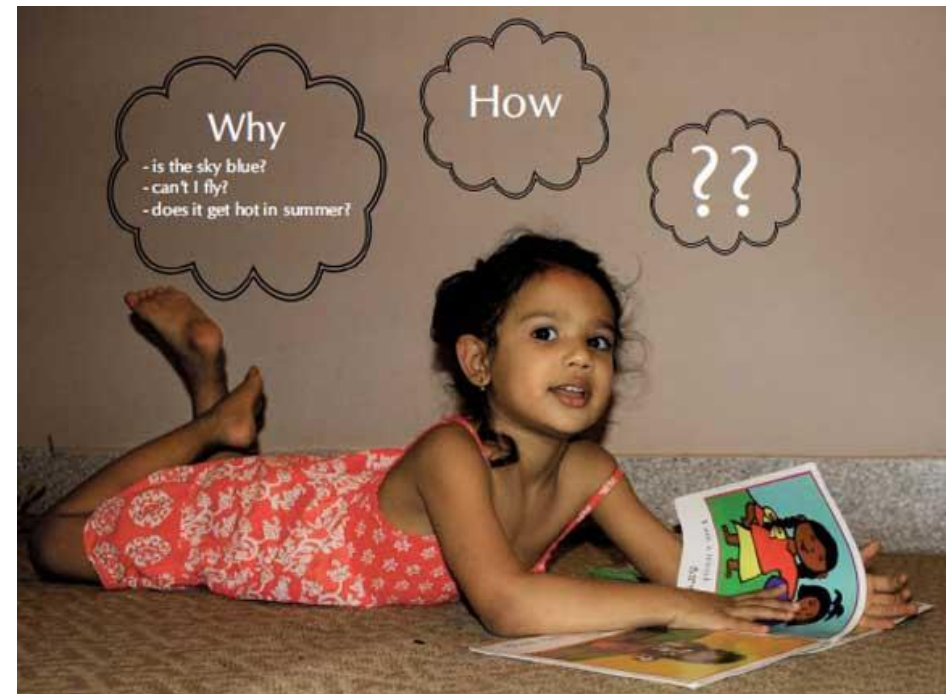
Why Read Informational Texts with Children?

Informational text is an important tool for:

- answering questions
- solving problems
- raising questions
- posing problems
- teaching concepts

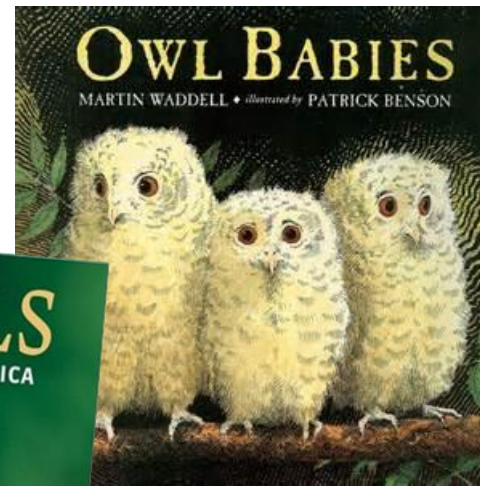
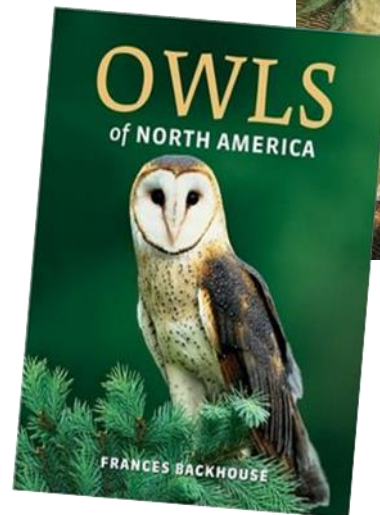
Why Read Informational Texts with Children?

- Build on children's interests
- Create the need or want to know

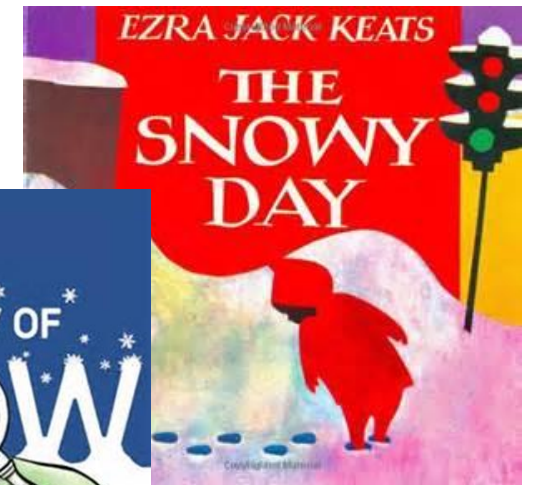
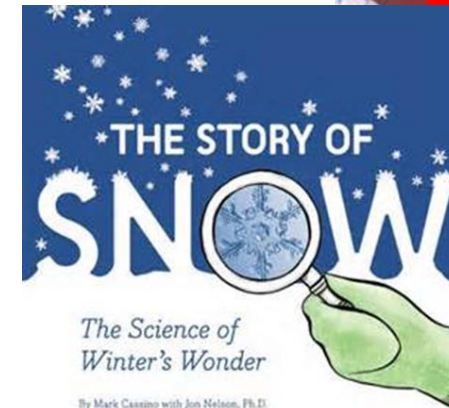


Why Read Informational Texts with Young Children?

Support comprehension of complex storybook read-alouds



Bortnem (2008)



How to Engage Young Children with Informational Texts

Intentional planning

- What world knowledge will children in my class need to have to understand the story I am going to read?
- Select appropriate informational books and schedule a time to share relevant information
- Use online resources (Read Right From the Start/Cox Campus)
- Use **REAL Time** strategy

Engaging Children in Read-Alouds of Informational Texts

Before doing REAL Time with children:

1. Identify the world knowledge I want children to gain from the book
2. Create a question that communicates “what I want to know”
3. Select meaningful text tools
4. Select tier 3 vocabulary
5. Plan an open-ended question that will elicit conversation about what we found out from the informational text

Engaging Children in Read-Alouds of Informational Texts

Rollins Center ©

Using Informational Texts in Small Group

Rollins Center ©

Using Informational Text During Center time

Rollins Center ©

Using Informational Text During Center time

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Ways to Use Informational Texts Throughout the Day

- Model the use of informational texts to find out what you want to know
- Listen to children!
- Use informational text to help children understand their emotions
- Use everyday opportunities to connect children's experiences and wonderings with use of informational texts
- Build on children's interests; write down their questions and engage them in finding informational text

Ways to Use Informational Texts Throughout the Day

Books Center: Include an equal balance of informational texts and storybooks in the books center

Blocks: Books about buildings and construction

Science: Books to support learning activities and natural materials

Dramatic Play: Recipe books, child-friendly magazines

Art: How-to-Books

Questions and Wrap-Up

readrightfromthestart.org

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