

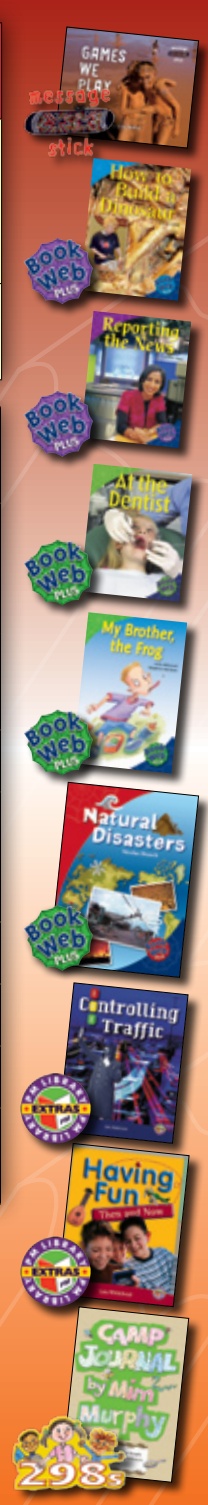
text types

- A text is any meaningful spoken, visual or written message
- A text communicates
- By writing and speaking we create texts, and by reading and listening we understand and interpret texts
- Different types of texts exist
- Texts serve different purposes and can be classified in many ways
- Different text types are structured in particular ways
- Text forms can overlap:
 - a stage play could be written in rhyming verse
 - an historical recount could be presented as a TV play re-enactment

Overview and examples

LITERARY TEXT TYPES	EXAMPLES OF LITERARY TEXT FORMS
Narrative	novel, short story, myth, legend, science fiction, fantasy, fable, cartoon, stage play, film script, television script, radio script, role play
Poetry	sonnet, haiku, lyric verse, song, limerick, jingle, epic, ballad
FACTUAL TEXT TYPES	EXAMPLES OF FACTUAL TEXT FORMS
Report	reference book, documentary, guidebook, experimental report, group presentation
Recount	journal, diary, newspaper article, historical recount, letter, log, timeline
Procedure	instruction, recipe, directions
Exposition	advertisement, lecture, editorial, letter to the editor, speech, newspaper article, magazine article
Explanation	scientific writing, spoken presentation
Discussion	debate, conversation, talkback radio
Description	observation, speech, analysis
Response/ Review	book review, film review, restaurant review, personal response

In addition to these text forms, there are visual text forms and data, which must be understood and interpreted in our daily lives. Examples of visual text forms are actions, expressions, illustrations, concept maps, photographs, images, symbols, plans and sketches. Examples of data are maps, diagrams, graphs, timetables, tables and charts.



text types

Purpose, structure and features

It's important to introduce children to a variety of text types. This chart explains the text type terminology used in the following Nelson literacy resources:

- Flying Colours
- Bookweb
- Message Stick
- PM Library
- Bookweb Plus
- 298s
- PM Plus
- Journeys in Critical Literacy
- Zebras
- Fast Forward
- Nelson Focus

TEXT TYPE	PURPOSE	GENERAL STRUCTURE	GENERAL LANGUAGE FEATURES
Report	To classify and/or describe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General statement or classification • Description 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • technical language • simple present tense • generalised terms
Recount (factual or literary)	To retell a series of events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orientation • Series of events sequenced in time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • descriptive language • past tense • time words to connect events • words which tell us where, when, with whom, how
Narrative	To entertain, amuse or instruct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orientation • Complication • Evaluation • Resolution • Coda (optional) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • usually specific participants • time words used to connect events • action words predominate in complication and resolution • noun groups important in describing characters and settings
Procedure	To instruct someone on how to do something	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goal • Steps 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • verbs usually at the beginning of each instruction • words or groups of words which tell us how, when, where, with whom
Explanation (factual or literary)	To explain how or why something occurs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phenomenon identification • Explanation sequence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • technical language • use of words such as because, as a result, to establish cause/effect sequences
Exposition	To persuade by arguing one side of an issue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thesis • Arguments • Reinforcement of Thesis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • words that qualify, e.g. usually, probably • words that link arguments, e.g. firstly, on the other hand
Response (factual or literary)	To respond to a visual, written or performed work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Context of artistic work • Description of artistic work • Judgement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • words which express judgements • descriptive language
Description (factual or literary) <i>*This text type is often embedded within other texts</i>	To describe the characteristics or features of a thing or a phenomenon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to the subject of the description • Characteristic features of the subject, e.g. physical appearance, qualities, behaviour, significant attributes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • particular nouns • variety of adjectives • action verbs • similes, metaphors, figurative language
Discussion	To examine issues from more than one perspective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statement outlining the issue • Arguments for and against • A conclusion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • use of thinking verbs, e.g. feel, believe, hope • use of connectives, e.g. on the other hand, however

