

Breaking Boundaries

Innovative Nonfiction for Today's Readers

www.HeatherLMontgomery.com



Heather Montgomery



@HeatherLMontgomery

Traditional Science Books

bombs that are sticky globs of lava, the size of footballs, that are blasted out during an eruption all across the sky. While still in mid-air, they partially melt and take on a rounded shape.

Pyroclastics are very important volcanic products because they pile up to create rich and fertile new growing crops. But, in the short term, pyroclastic flows are real problems. During the 1991 eruption of Mount Pinatubo in the Philippines, the volcano put out huge quantities of ash that settled over the surrounding countryside. Near the 50,000-acre (20,235-hectare) Clark Air Base. For years, the United States had leased the land on which the base was built from the Philippine government.



Ash from Mount Pinatubo piles in the streets of Olongapo.



eried the base, collapsing many buildings because of the massive expense required to reopen the base, as well as the scene in the Philippines, the role of the land to the Philippine government.

ise wasn't all that Pinatubo did. It sent huge quantities of pyroclastics into the air that stayed there for many months. There were also Space Shuttle astronaut crews who complained about the poor views they were getting.

Pinatubo's eruption was one of the most famous. Volcanic eruptions are known in history and have been found in the prehistoric past. In 1815, the volcanic mountain of Mount Tambora on an island chain self-destructed in a massive eruption. A third of the mountain was gone. Thousands perished in the eruption or died from the devastation it created in Indonesia. The eruption was not restricted to Indonesia. The atmosphere is believed to have been cooled for a year. The dust reflected some of the sun's light and dropped Earth's surface temperature. The year was referred to as the "year without a summer." New England had to wear warm clothing and early frosts in August hurt crops. The eruption was especially damaging in the Philippines because of the short supply because of the

Don't do
BORING!

Tree Guts



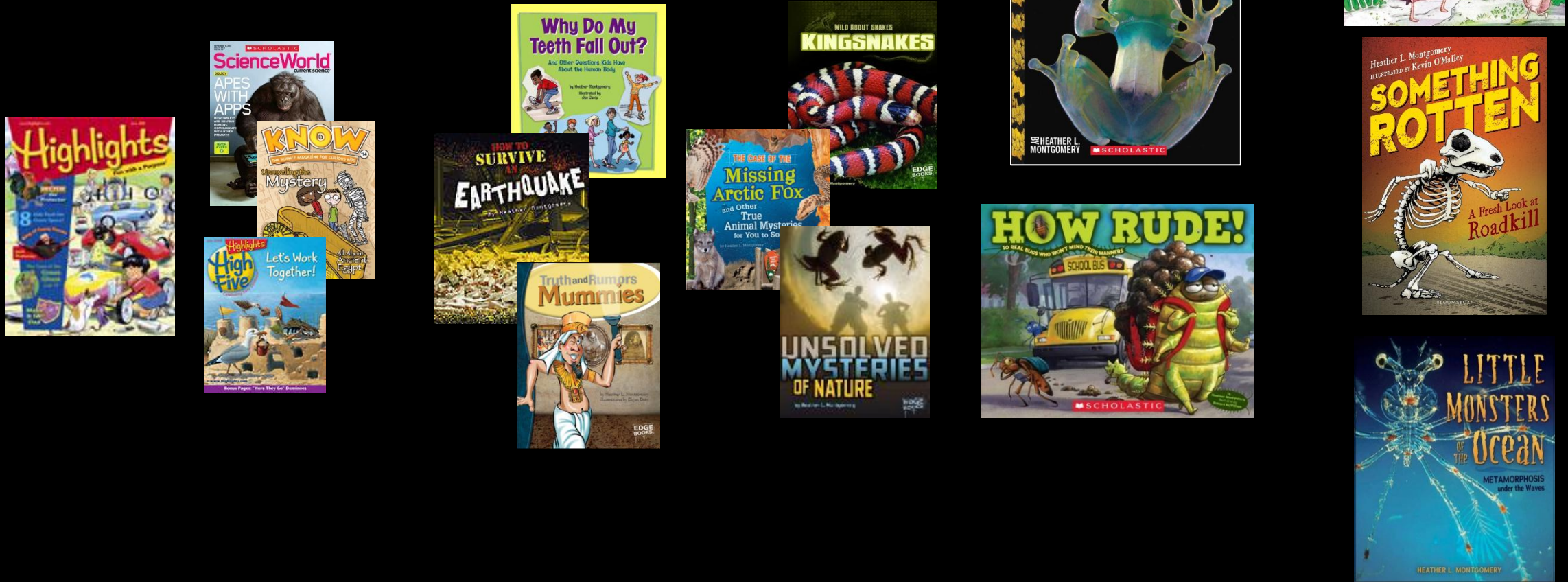
Boring?

Cognitive Dissonance

Innovative Approach

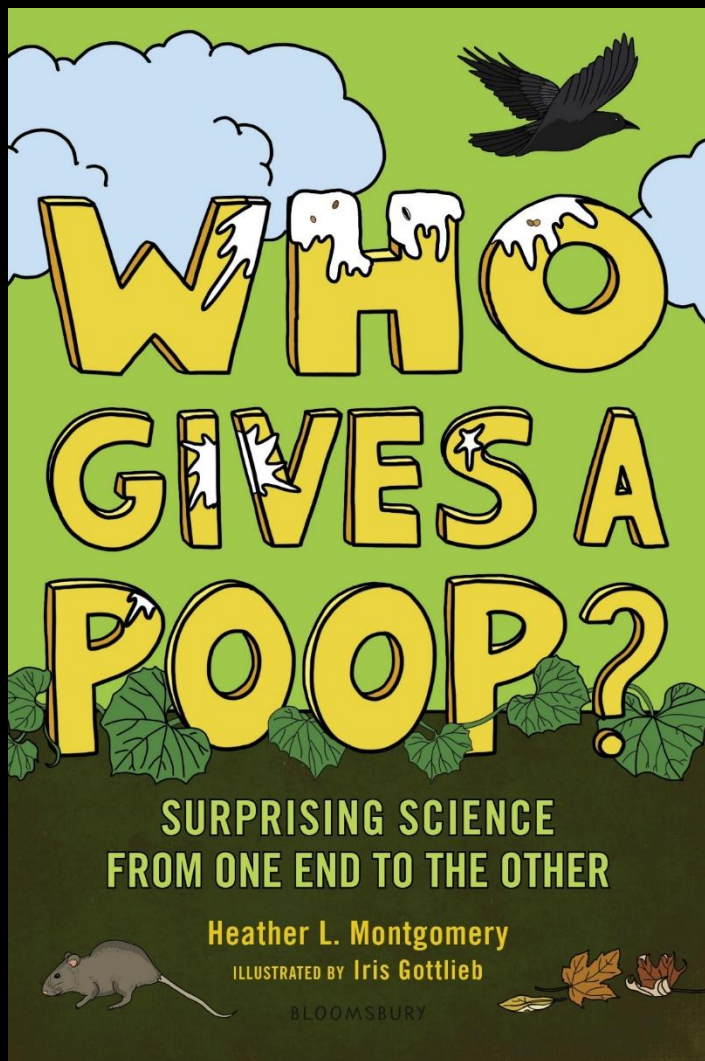


Career Timeline



2008

2018



"...equal parts informative and grotesquely fascinating. Highly recommended for public and school libraries."

-School Library Journal



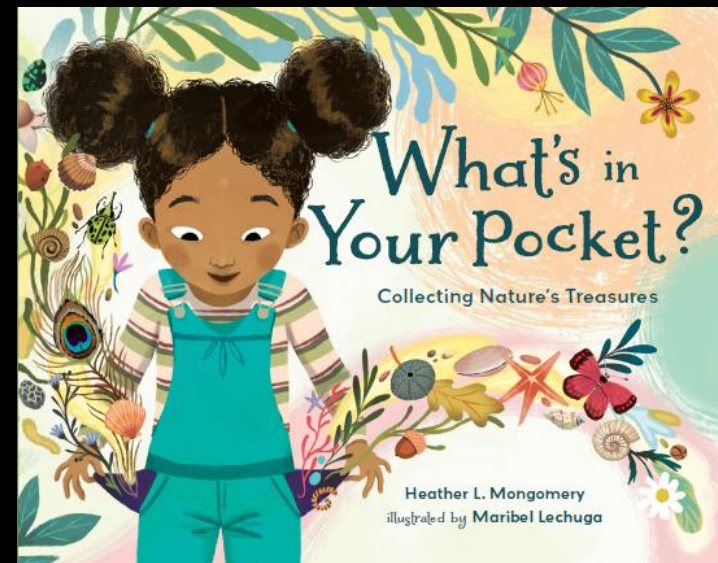
"A well-stirred slurry of facts and fun for strong-stomached 'poop sleuths.'"

-Kirkus Reviews



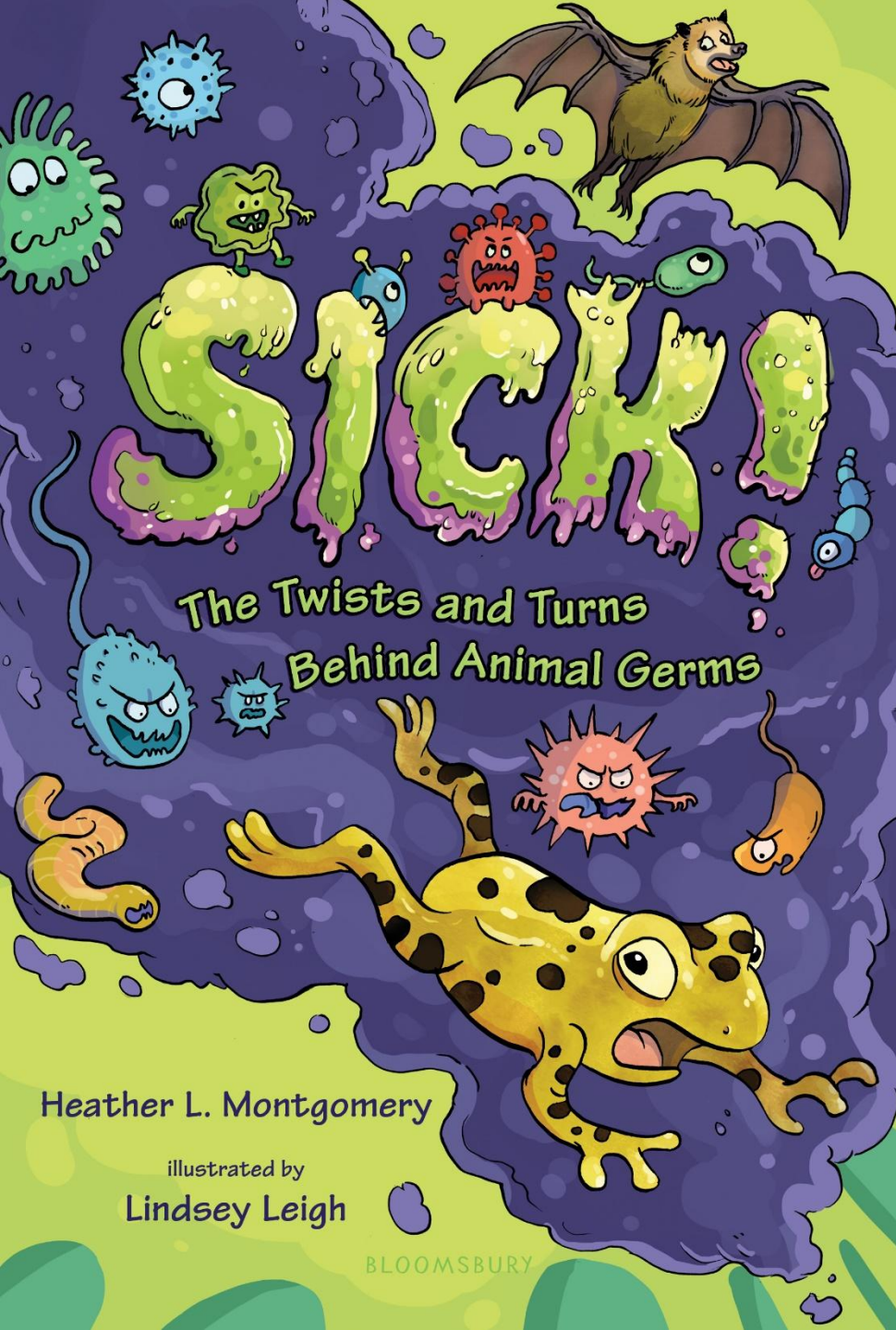
"Montgomery is an ideal spokesperson to forward news from the fetid field."

-BCCB



2020

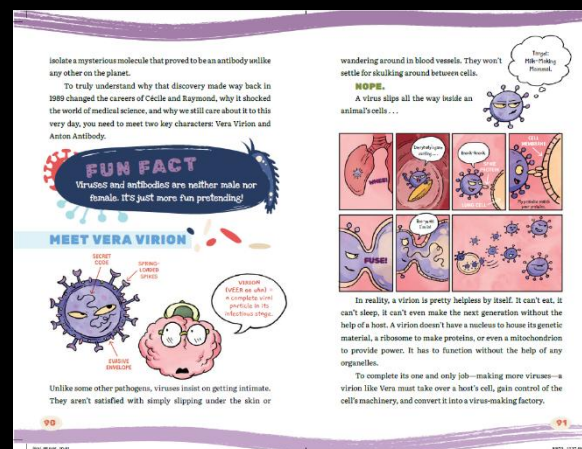
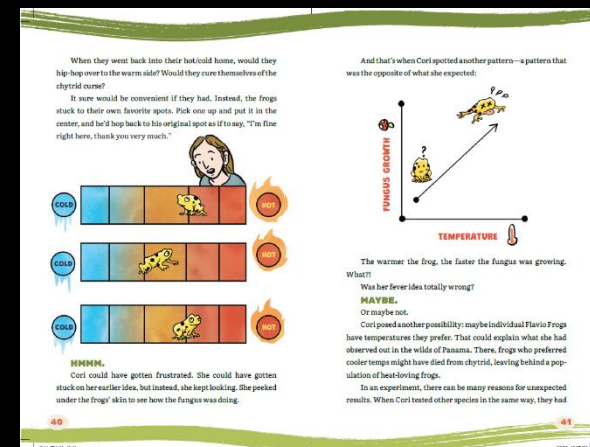
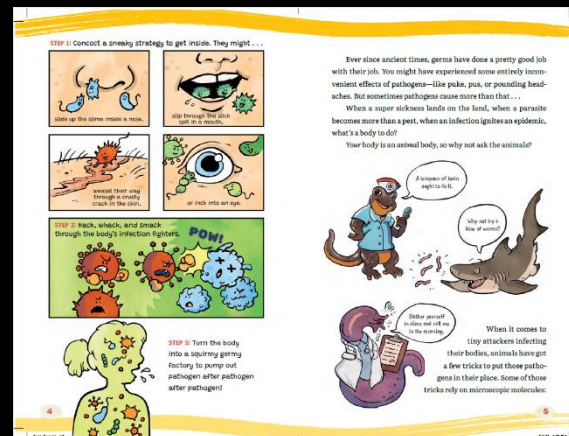
2021



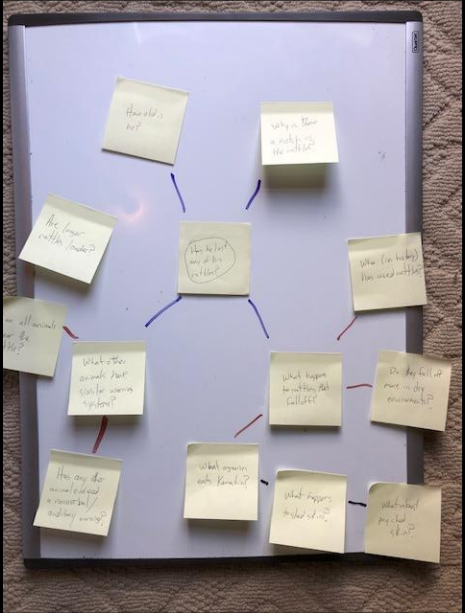
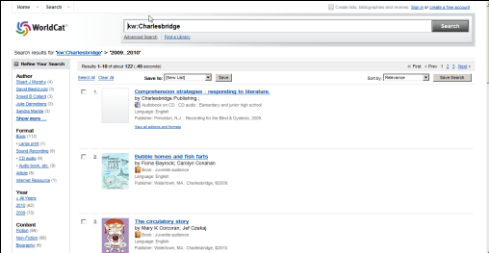
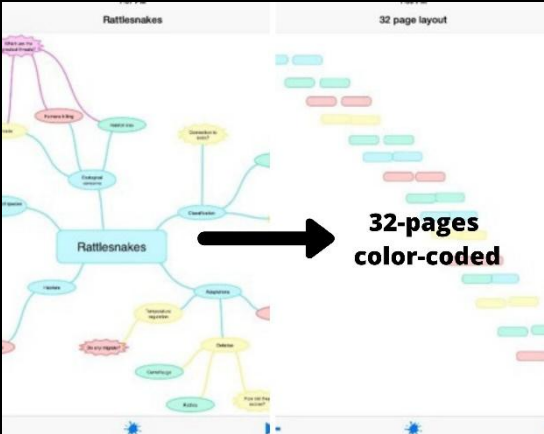
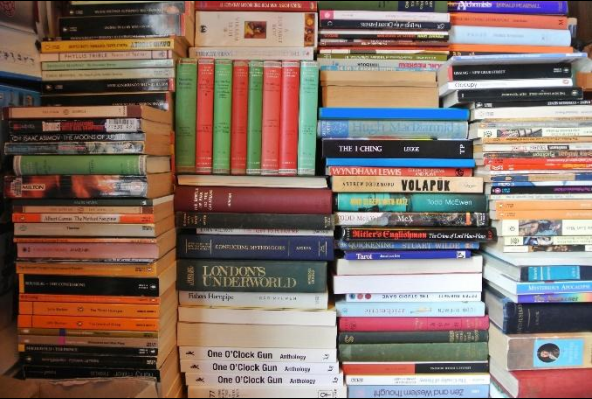
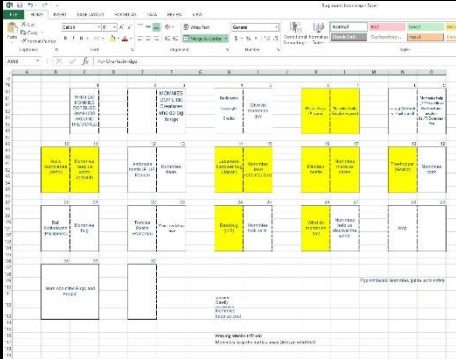
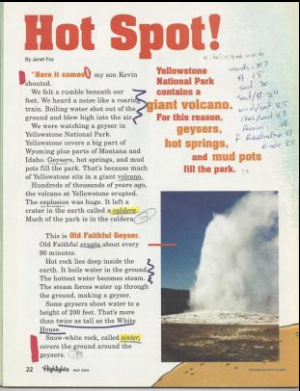
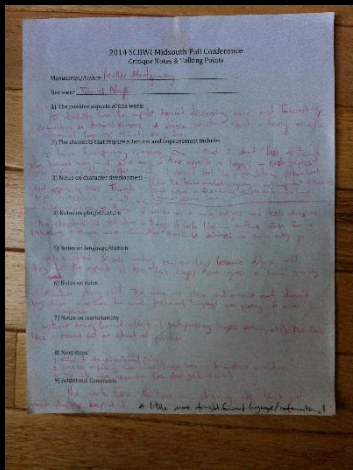
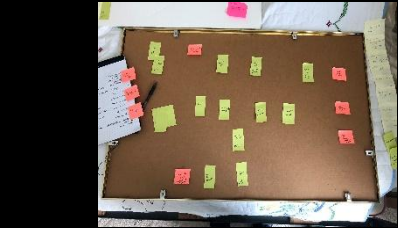
Heather L. Montgomery

illustrated by
Lindsey Leigh

BLOOMSBURY



Becoming a student of Kidlit...



Many Elements to learn from

How do you organize books on your shelf?



What Labels would you use?

- 5 stickies
- 5 minutes
- Go!

What labels did you use?

Biography/Animal/Poetry

Picture Book / Easy Reader/Chapter Book /
Young Adult

Lyrical, Inquiry, Informative, Humorous

Fiction / Nonfiction/????

Label it like Melissa Stewart

5 Kinds of Nonfiction



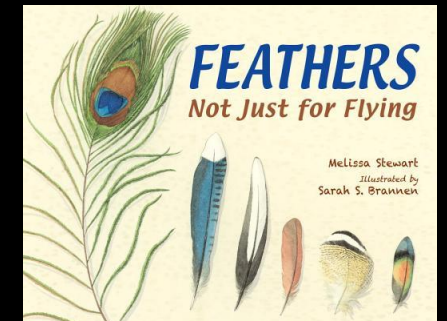
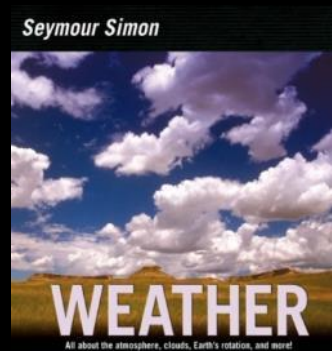
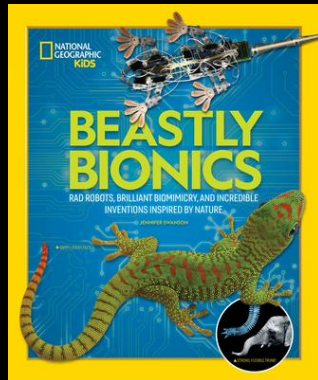
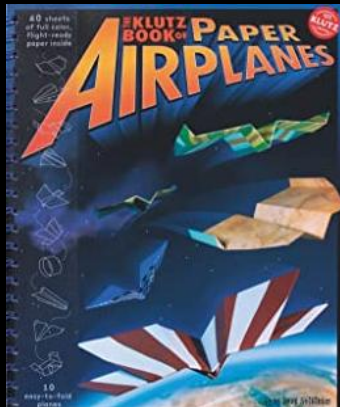
Active

Browseable

Traditional

Narrative

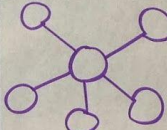
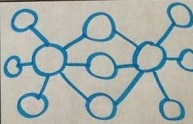
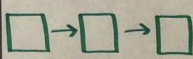
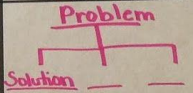
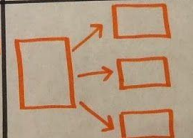
Expository
Literature



Commercial Nonfiction

Literary Nonfiction

Label like an Educator

Informational Text Structures				
Structure	Defined	Clues	Visual	Example
Description	Text provides details or characteristics of something.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adjectives • Characteristics • Examples • Mental Image 		Ice cream is a frozen, sugary sweet delicacy. The treat comes in flavors like vanilla.
Compare + Contrast	The text talks about similarities and differences between people, places, things, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same/Different • Both, neither • In contrast • On the other hand 		Although both ice cream and veggies are food, ice cream is less healthy and eaten as dessert. Veggies, however, are a side dish to a meal.
Order + Sequence	The text outlines chronological events or a list of steps in a procedure.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Order of events • History • Instructions • Steps • Signal Words 		Want delicious ice cream? First, scoop it into a bowl. Then, top it with goodies like sprinkles. Finally, grab a spoon and enjoy!
Problem + Solution	The text gives information about a problem and explains one or more solutions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Problem • Solution 		If your ice cream melts before you finish it, put it back into the freezer.
Cause + Effect	The text describes an event (cause) and the effects that follow.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cause • Effect • if/then • because • as a result • due to 		If melted ice cream gets on your hand, your skin will be sticky.

Label like an Editor

My publishing categories

Narrative: story with arc

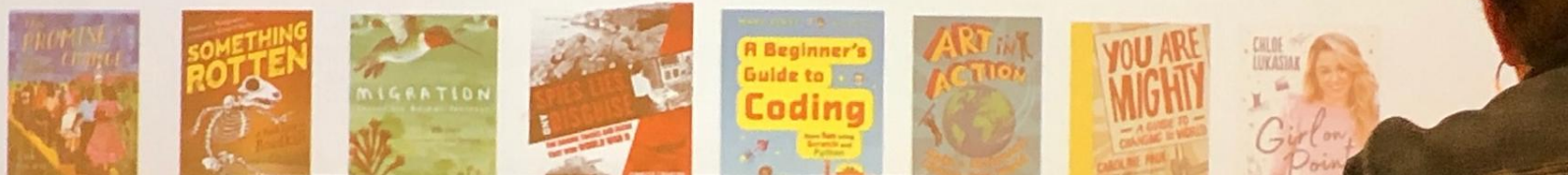
Expository: based around defining/explaining one topic; often contains lists or broken into sections explaining parts of a whole; less explicit story arc

Browseable: combination narrative/expository

Active: activity-based

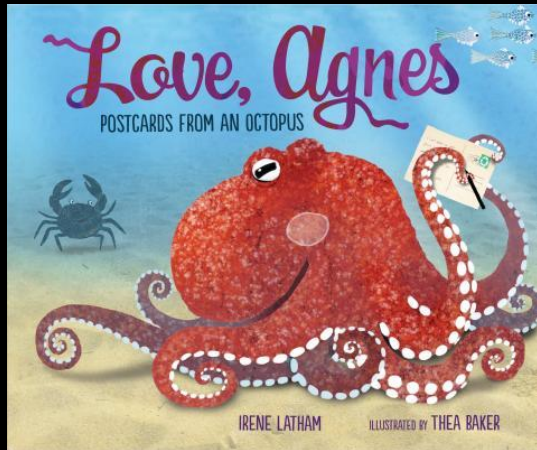
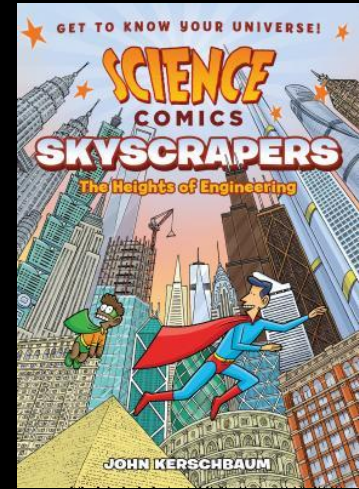
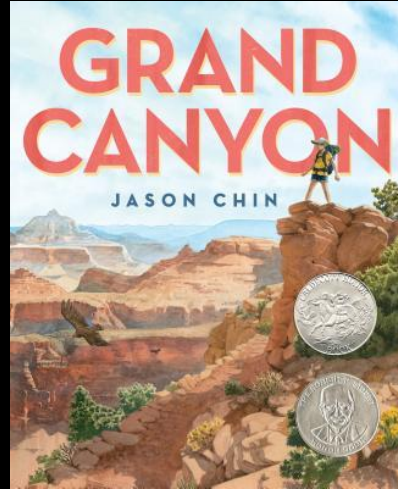
Prescriptive: instructional/motivational

Opportunity: timely books based on platform/contemporary



Susan Dobinick, Senior Editor, Bloomsbury USA

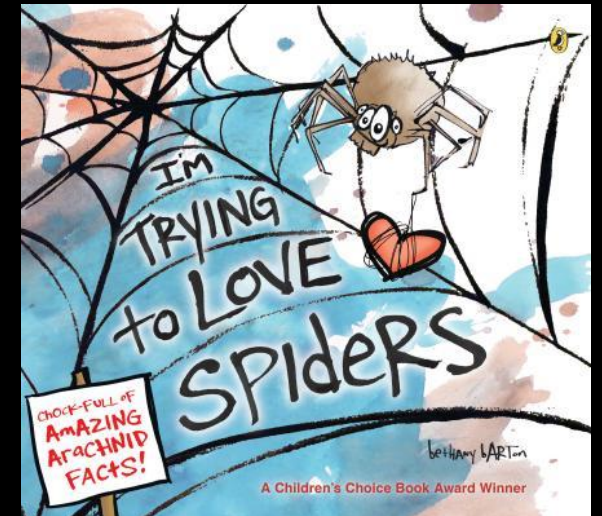
Fiction? Nonfiction? What is it?



Terms people use:

- Creative Nonfiction
- Narrative Nonfiction
- Informational Text
- Hybrid

- Fic-information
- Faction
- Informational Fiction



Clearly Factual



Clearly Fabricated

Language

Frogs sing.
Frogs waltz
through the water.

Character/Point of view

I am a frog with 4 legs.
Froggy Fretta laid her
eggs in the pond.

Continuum

Empirical
Fact

Complete
Fabrication

Inferences

This frog has 4 legs.

Generalizations

Frogs have 4 legs.
Frogs live in ponds.

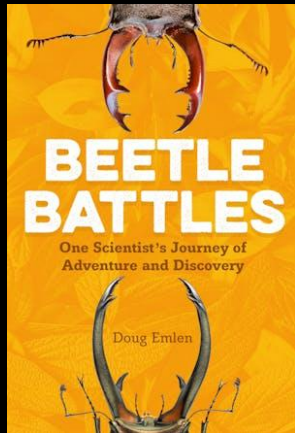
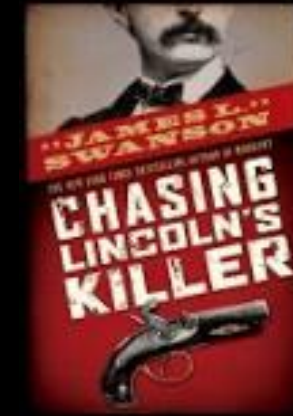
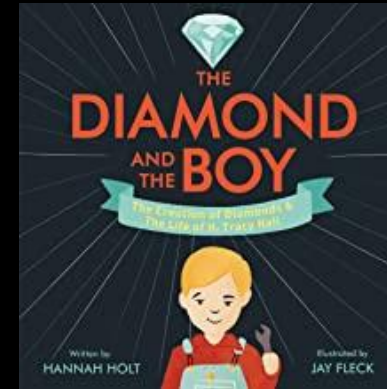
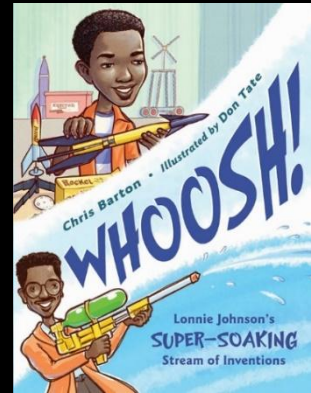
Illustrations

Artistic rendition of a frog (not a
specific species).
Cartoon version of a frog.

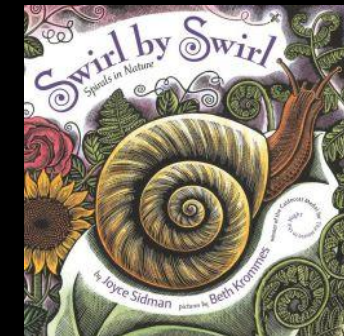
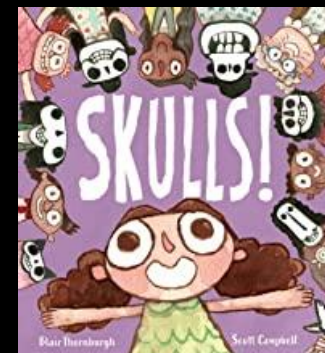
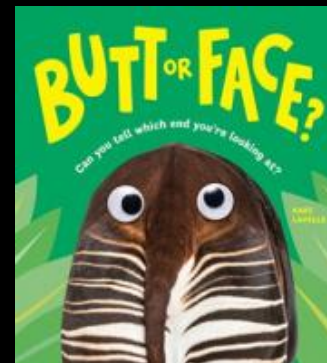
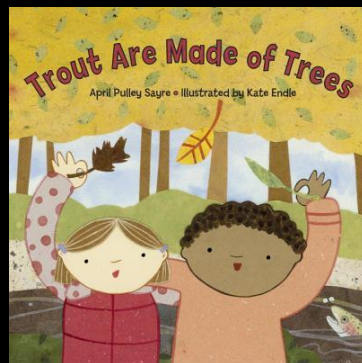
Dialog

Fretta the Frog flies
to Mars.

Narrative

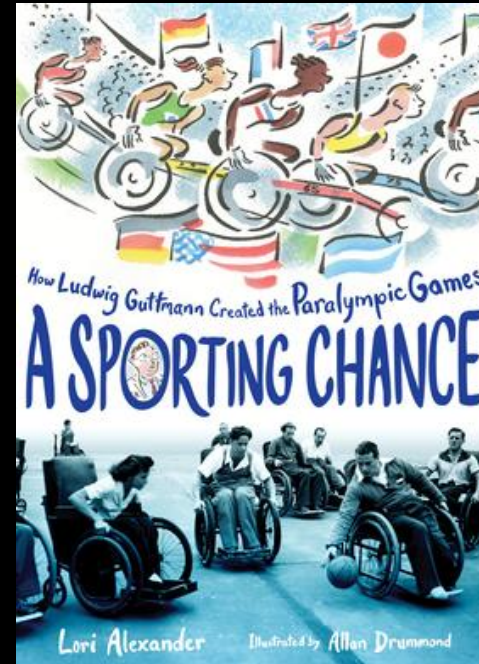
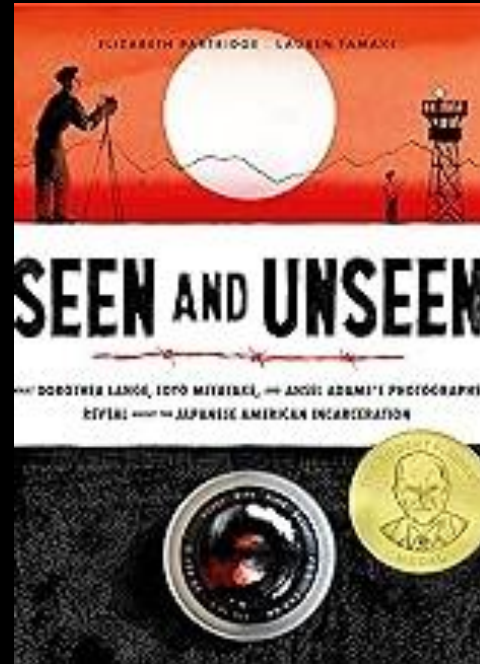
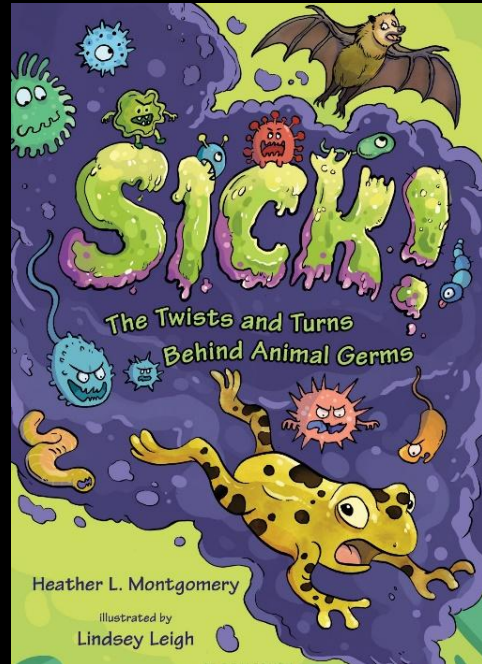
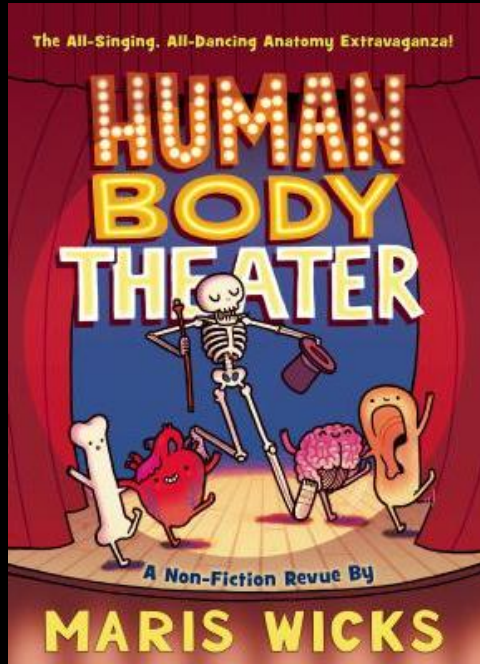


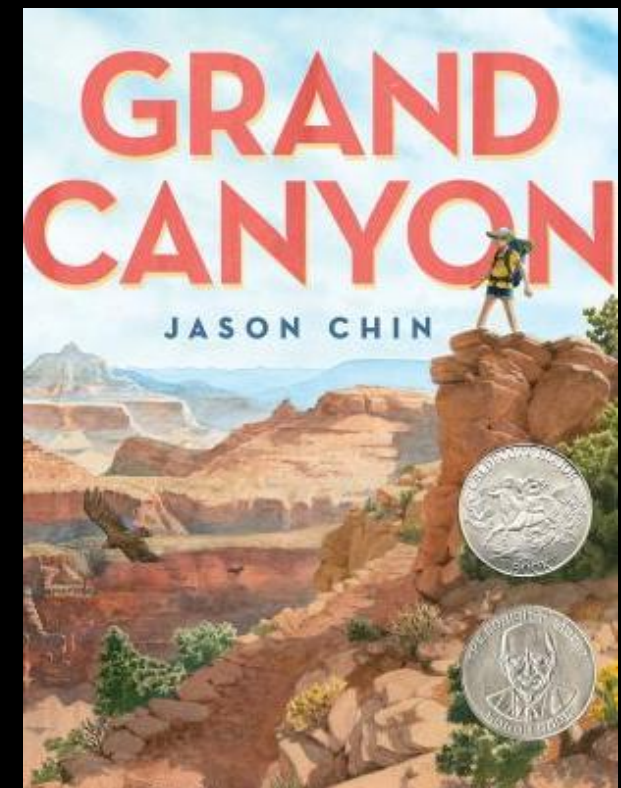
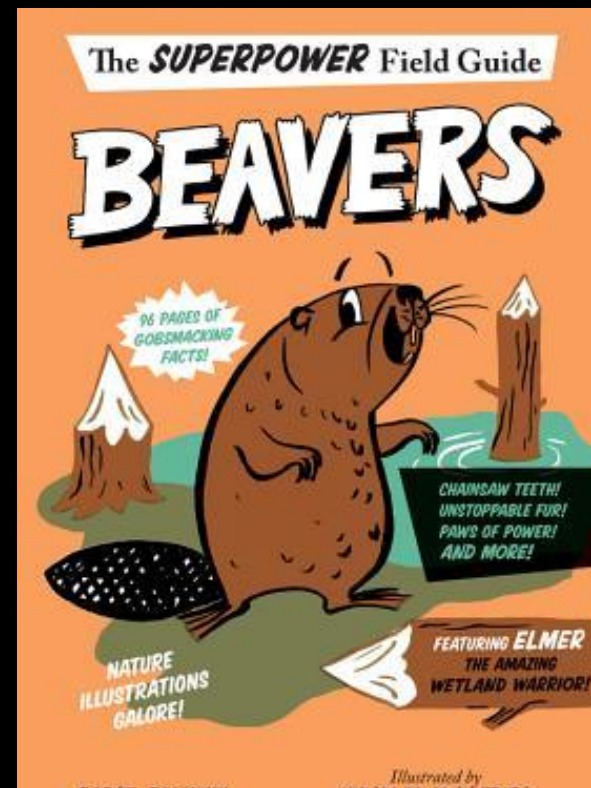
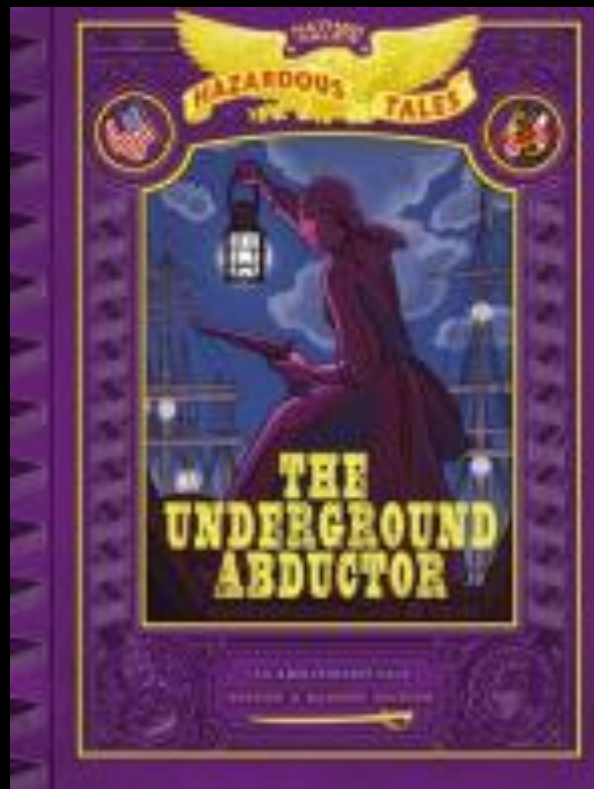
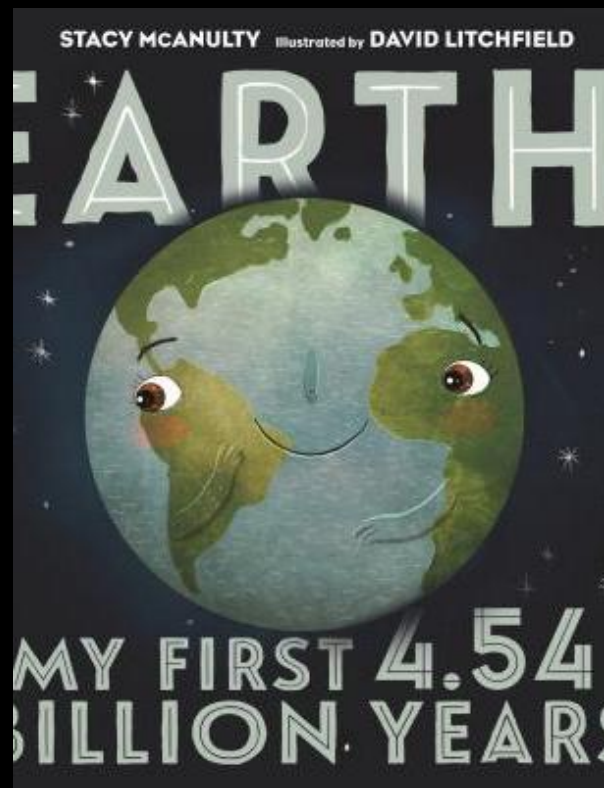
Narrative/Expository



Expository

Illustrations/Graphic Formats



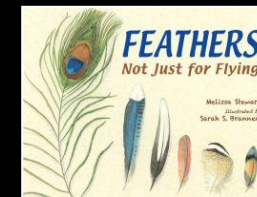
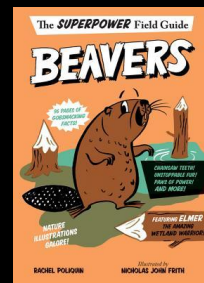
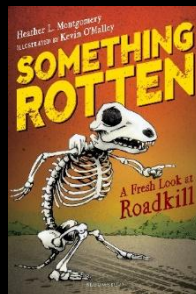


Character(s)

The Voice Continuum

Lively ----- Lyrical

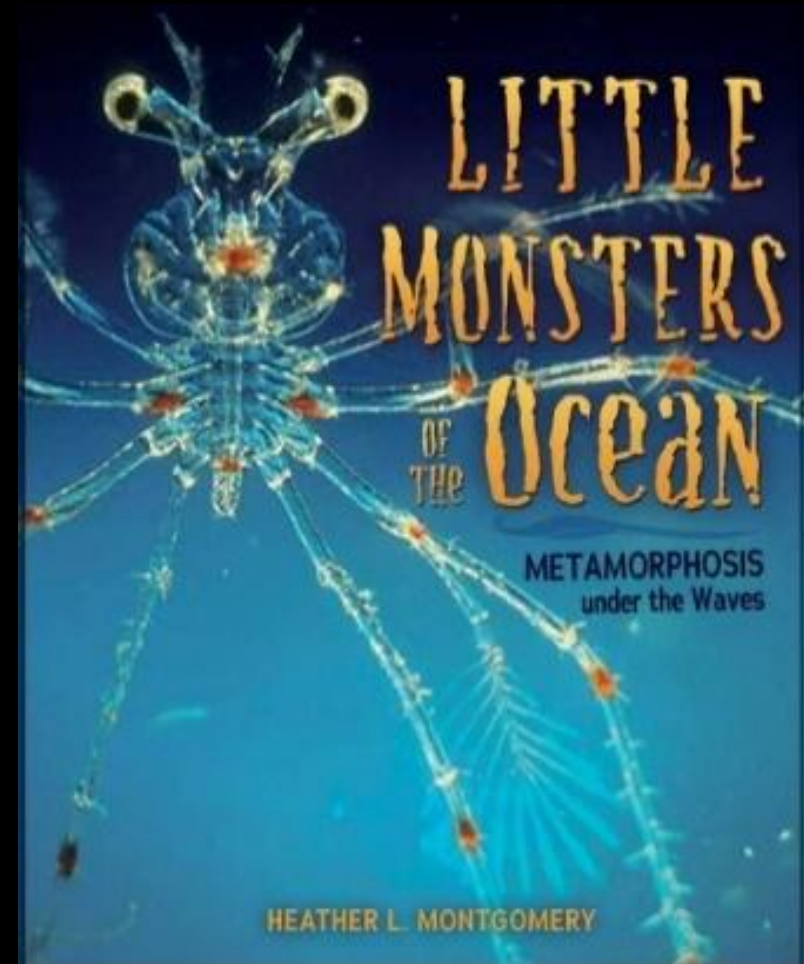
	playful	light, lovely
irreverent		stately, respectful
	sassy	calm, cozy
	passionate, excited	soothing
goofy	confessional	wondrous
	conversational	descriptive
humorous	storyteller	



From Melissa Stewart

www.melissa-stewart.com

How do you get from a fun idea to a
publishable book?



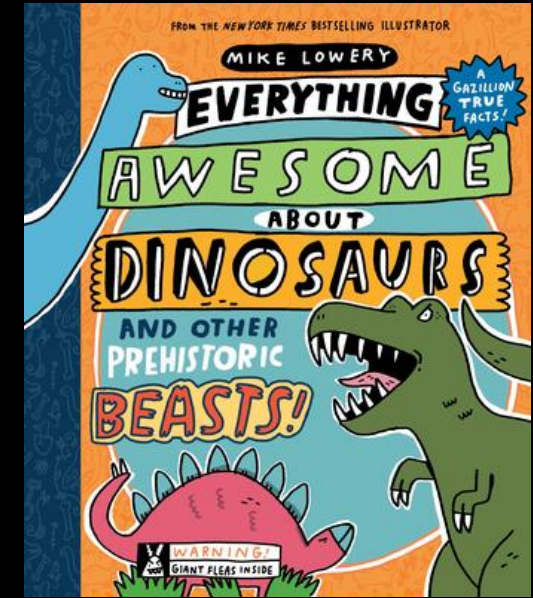
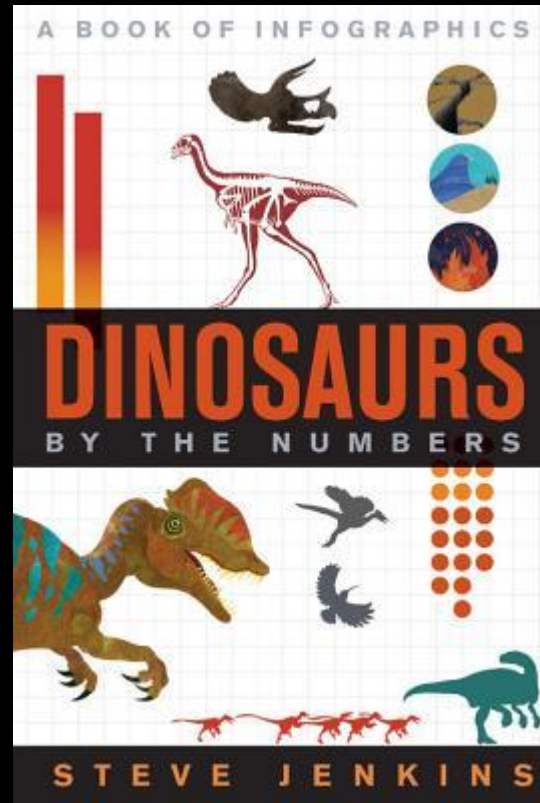
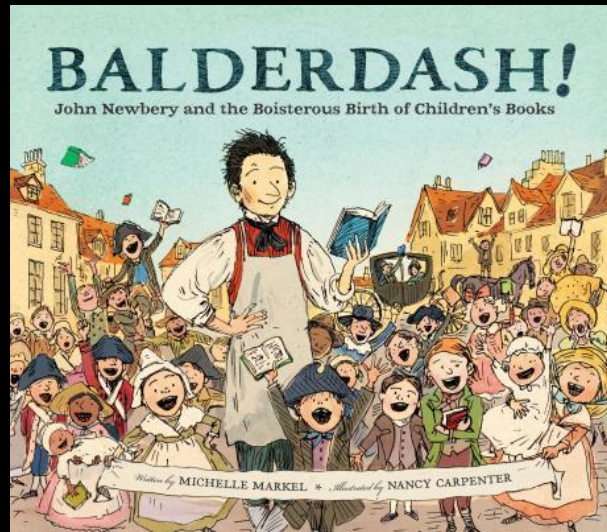
PLAY!!!

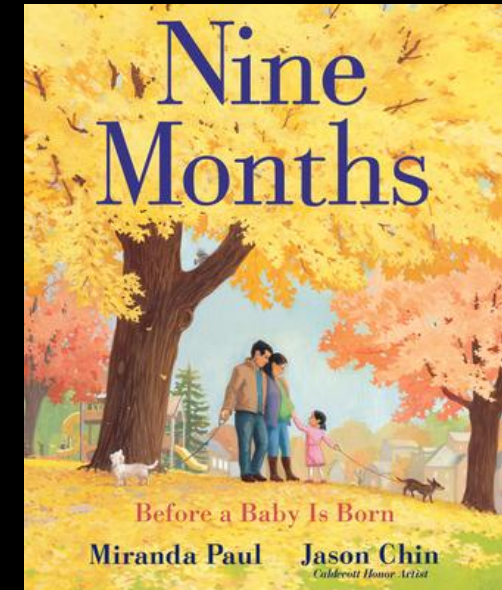
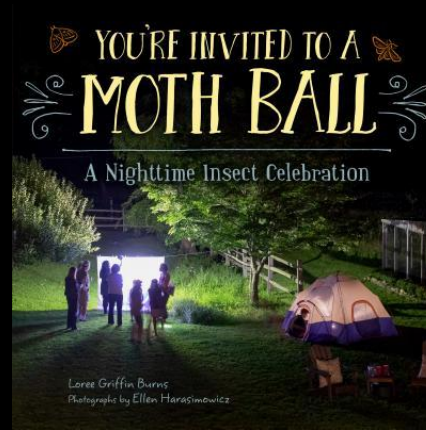
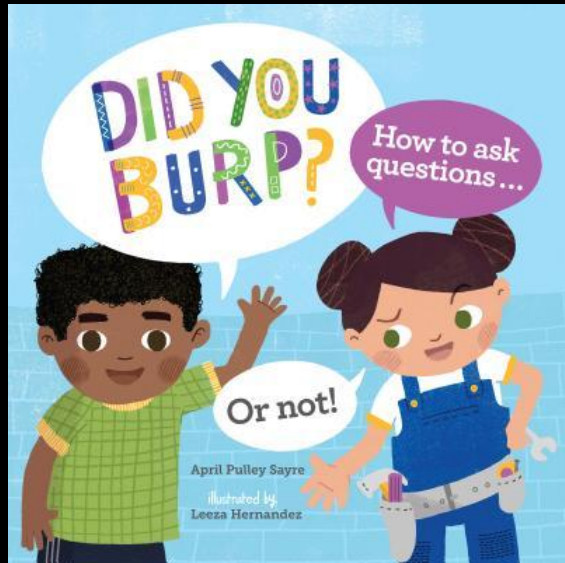




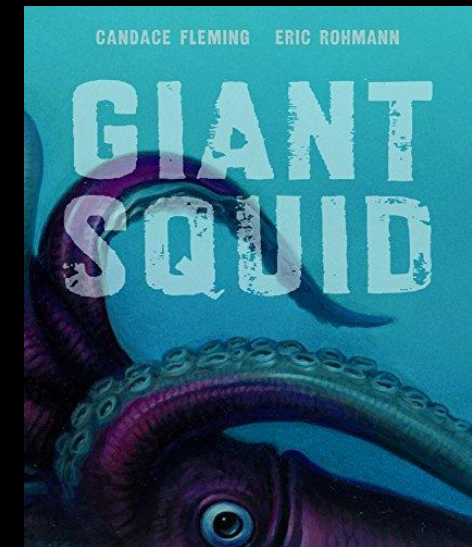
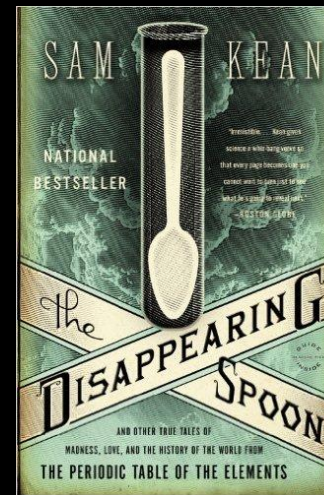
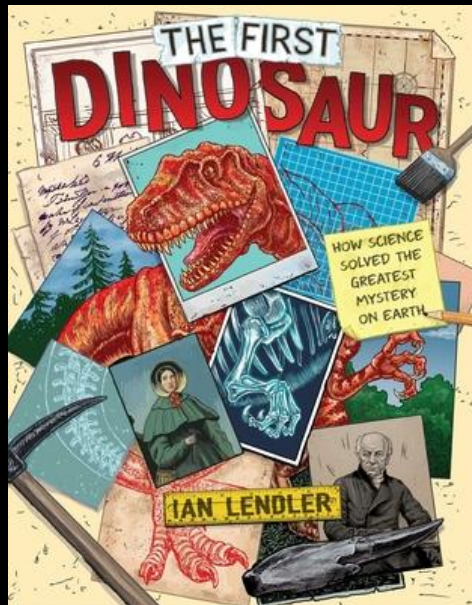
1. Write one sentence about the apple.
2. Change the point of view of the sentence.
3. Write the sentence as a very boring teacher would say it.
4. Write it as a cartoon character would say it.
5. Write it with alliteration (repetition of first consonant) or assonance (repetition of vowel sounds).
6. Write it as a bus driver would say it.
7. Write it as poetry.
8. Write it with onomatopoeia.
9. WILD CARD: Create your own category
10. Choose your favorite and revise.

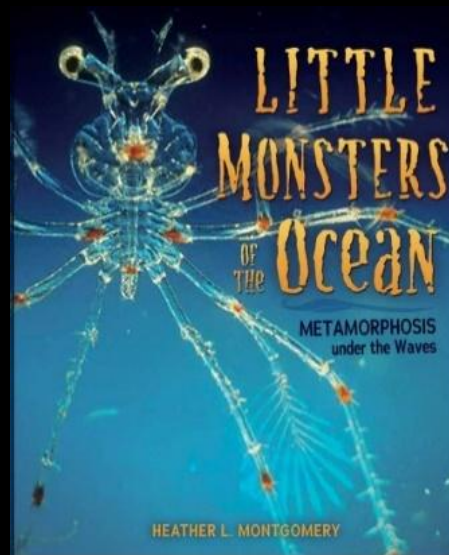
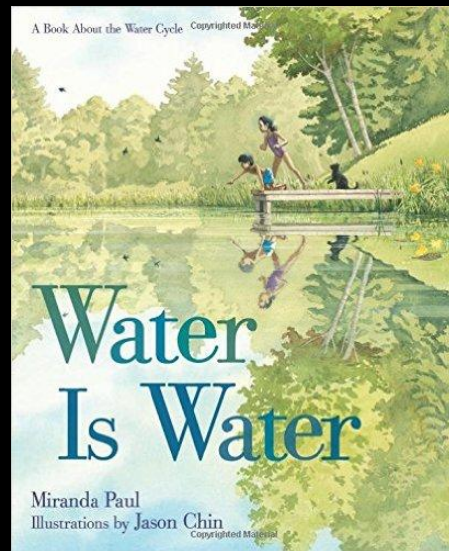
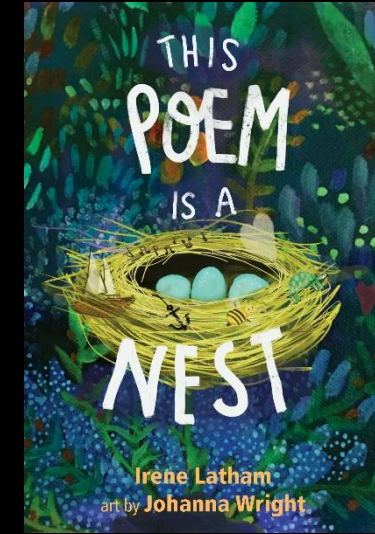
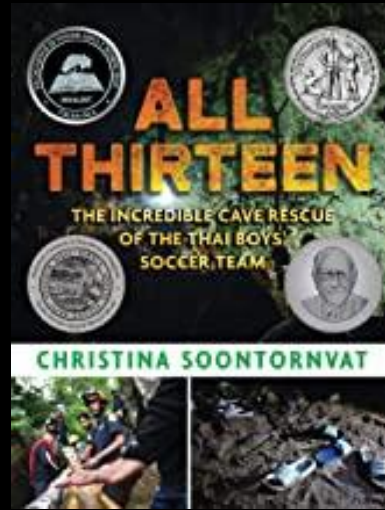
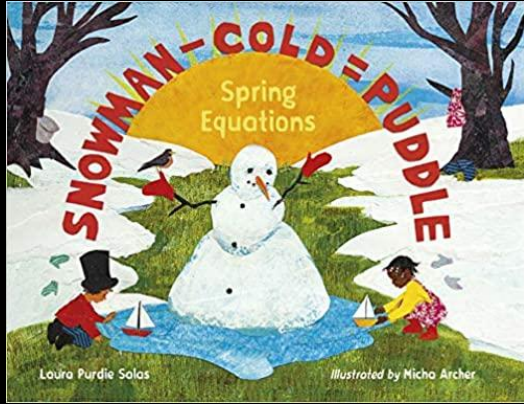
Design



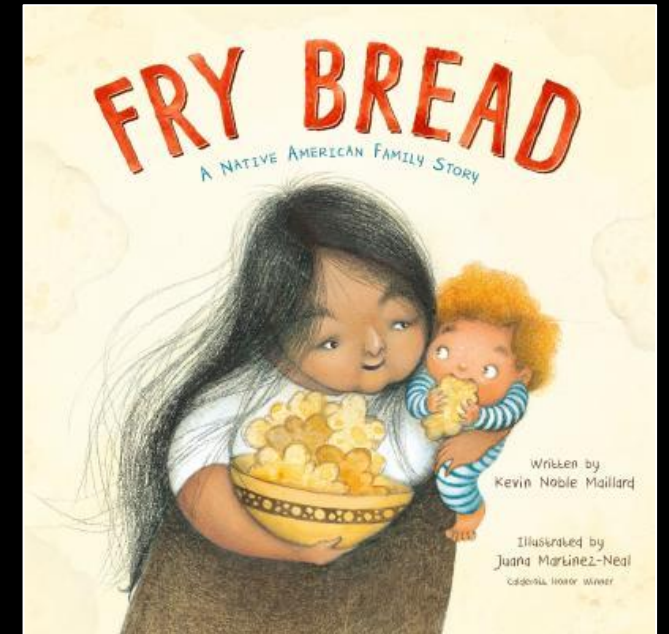


Topic

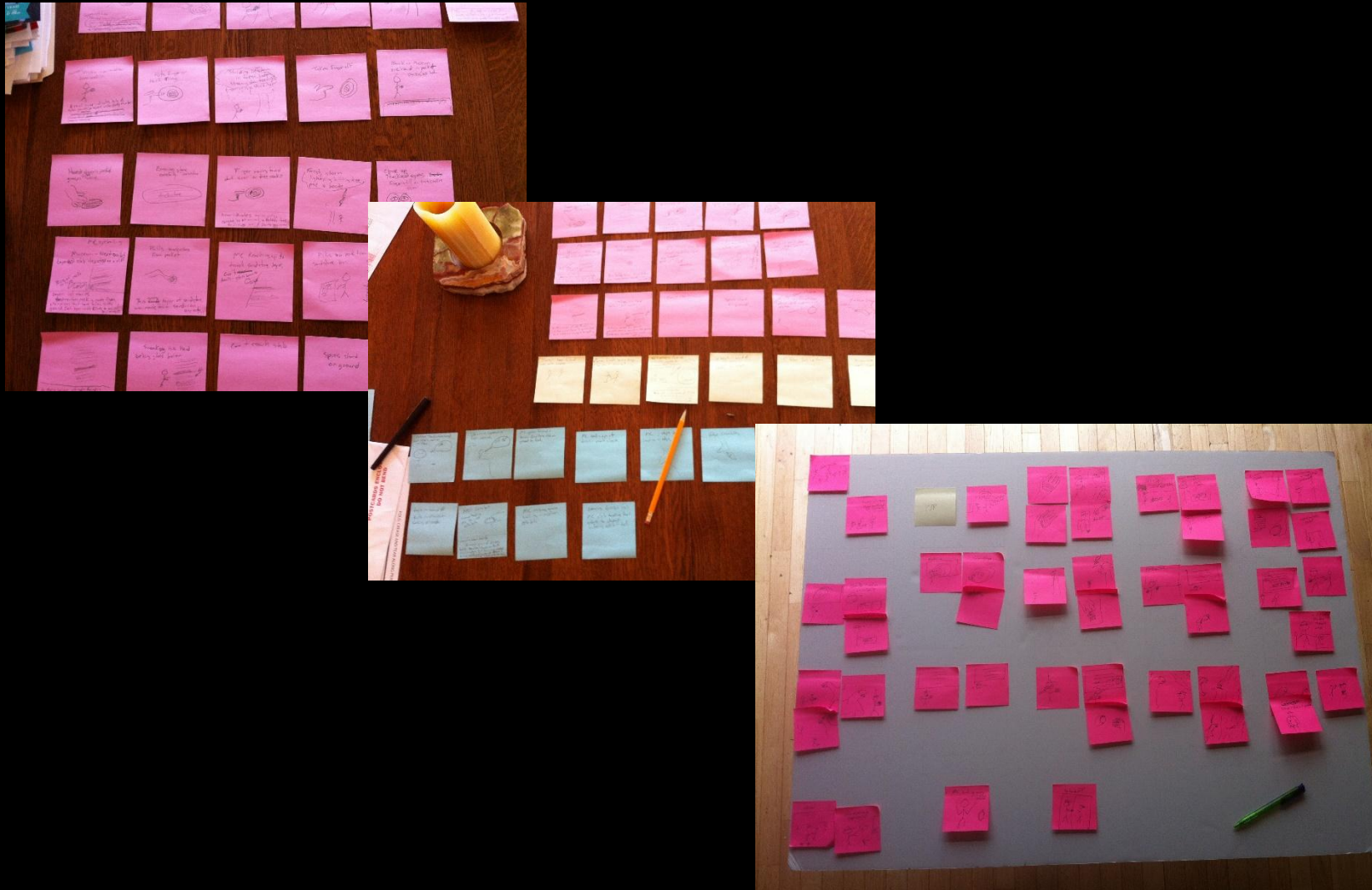




Lens
Angle
Approach

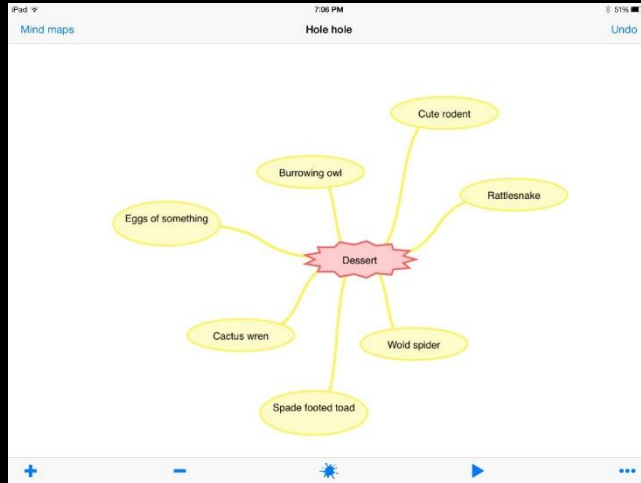


Innovative Structure: PLAY with it!

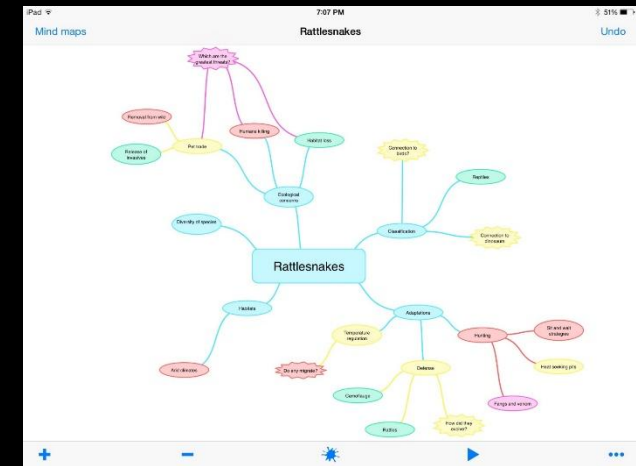


Visual Thinking Tools: Concept Maps (Total Recall App)

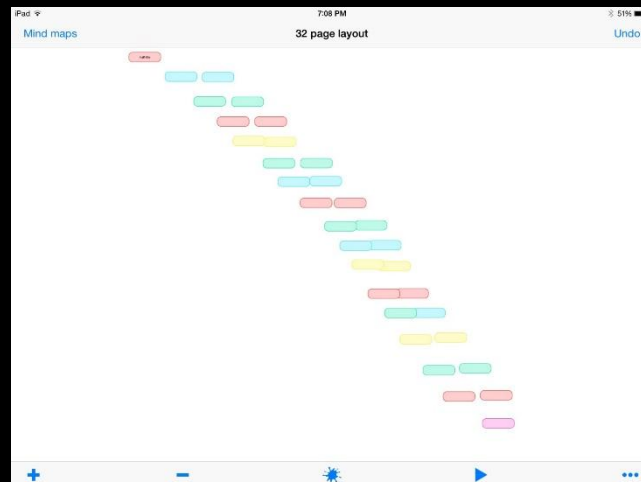
For brainstorming



For guiding research



Playing with Structure





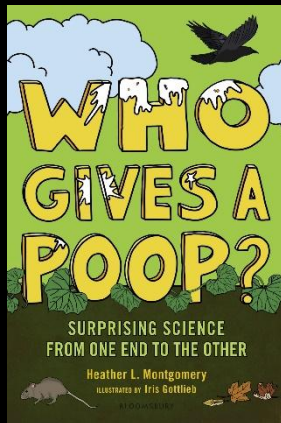
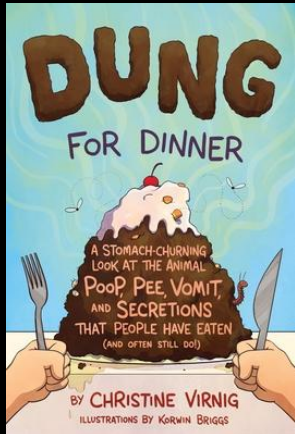
1. Write 10 facts about this apple, putting each on a separate sticky note.
2. Re-arrange the sentences in the most traditional, logical order for presenting the material.
3. Re-arrange again using a different logic.
4. Re-arrange again using an illogical order.
5. Re-arrange again using a narrative flow.

Compare/Contrast Titles

Poop, etc.

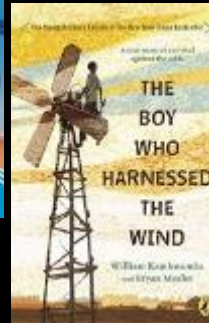
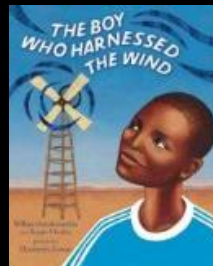
Dung for Dinner: A Stomach-Churning Look..., Christine Virnig

Who Gives a Poop? Heather L. Montgomery



Electricity & Invention

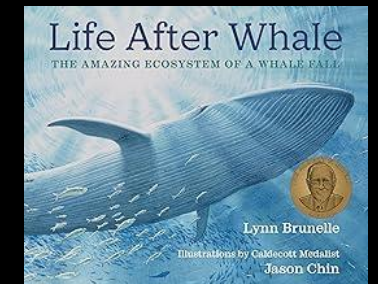
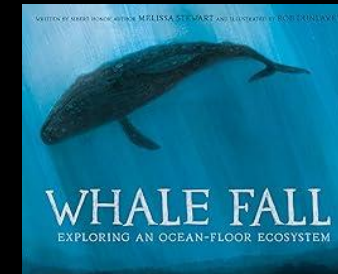
The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind, Willima Kamkwamba and Bryan Mealer



Whale Fall

Whale Fall: Exploring an Ocean-Floor Ecosystem, Melissa Stewart

Life After Whale: The Amazing Ecosystem of a Whale Fall



Other Visual Thinking Strategies

- Higher Order Thinking and Thinker's Tools
<http://hotandthinkertools.wikispaces.com>
- Compare your subject with something very different and very similar. List similarities and then differences.

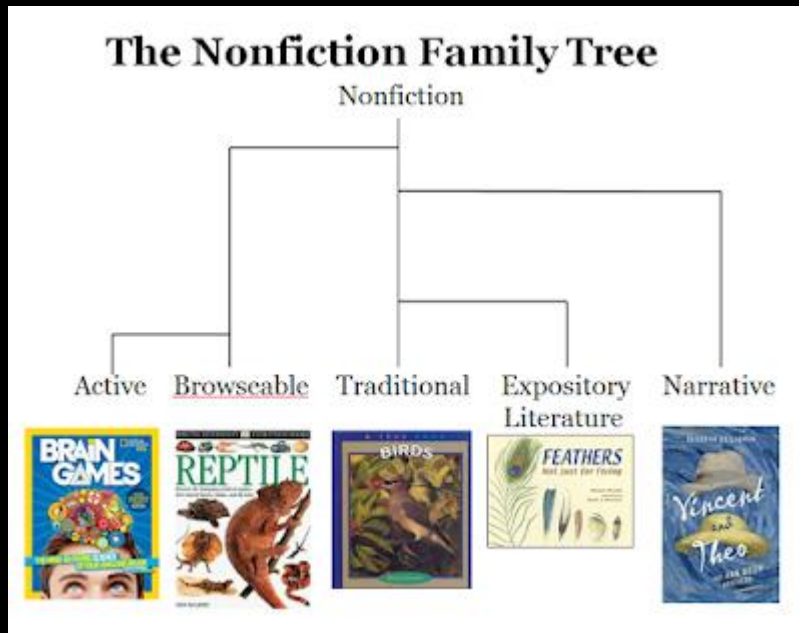


- Collect many pictures of your subject. Write a sentence to go with each. The sentence should express the mood of the photo. Which voice best suits your purpose/theme?



Compare/contrast: PLAY with it!

- Create your own voice continuum
- Where do they fit in the tree?

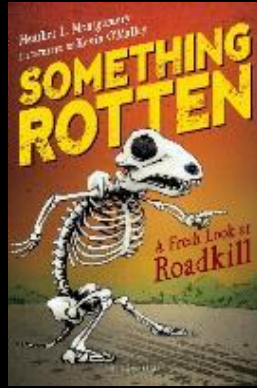
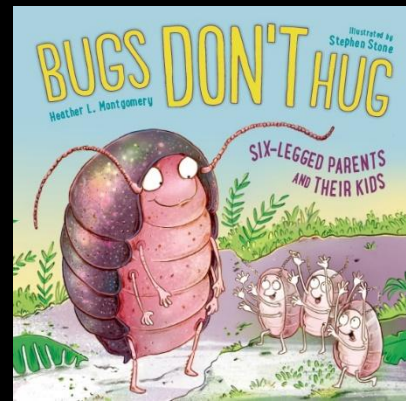


- How many different angles/approach?
- Which are the most similar? Why?
- Comment on the design, illustration or format.
- What structure does the text use?

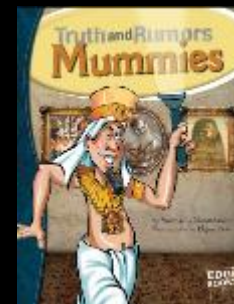
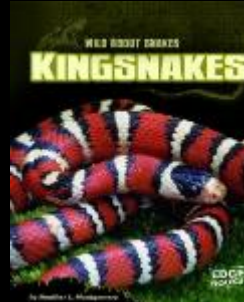
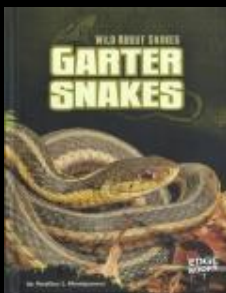
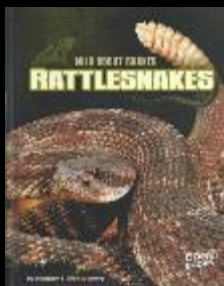
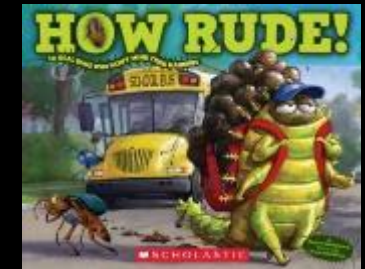
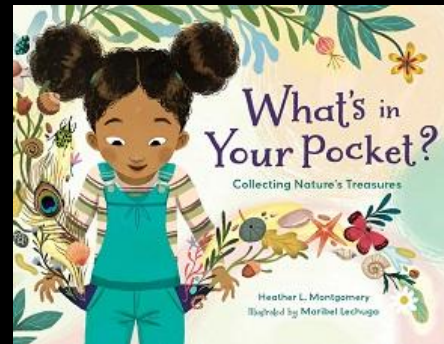
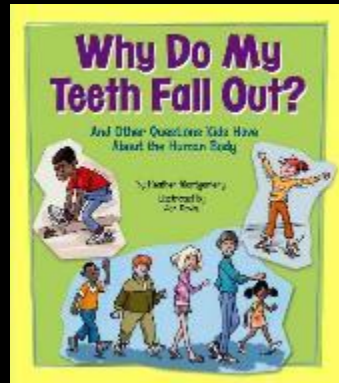
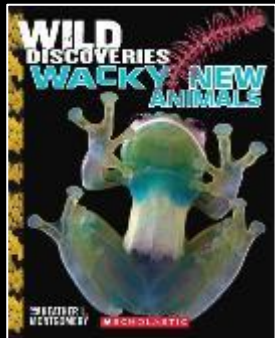
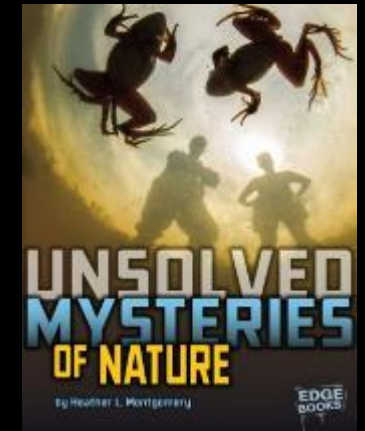
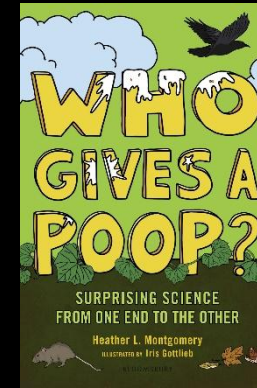
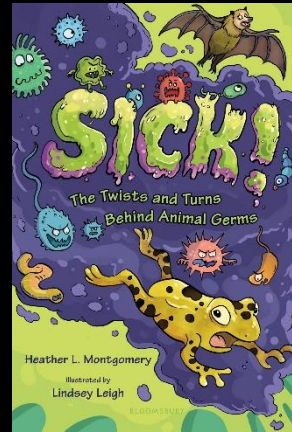
So, Which Will It Be . . .



. . . Boring or BREAKTHROUGH!!!



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