

Narrative or Expository?

Cross-Curricular Focus: Study Skills



How can you tell if you are reading a **narrative** or an **expository** text? There are things you can look for that will let you know. Read about the differences between these two kinds of text.

A narrative is a story. It has characters, and things that happen in a certain time and place. It has a beginning, a middle, and an end. There is usually a problem that gets solved during the story. Narratives can tell true stories, or they can tell stories that the writers have made up in their minds. The picture books and chapter books that you read in school and at home are narrative texts.

An expository text is written to give information about something. It usually has a main idea, and information that supports the main idea. The text may be about people, or it may be about only things or events. Expository texts are true. They give facts, like dates, places, and other information. Newspapers, some magazines, dictionaries, encyclopedias, and your school textbooks are all expository texts.

Name: _____

Answer the following questions based on the reading passage. Don't forget to go back to the passage whenever necessary to find or confirm your answers.

1) If you are reading a story that a writer made up in his mind, is it a narrative, or expository text?

2) Is your science textbook a narrative or expository text?

3) If you are reading something with a main idea and supporting details, what kind of text are you reading?

4) If you are reading a story about two friends who sing in a school talent show, are you reading a narrative or an expository text?

5) Is a newspaper a narrative or an expository text? _____