

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 tell you. Read about the differences between these two kinds of text.

A narrative is a story. It has characters. Things happen in a certain time and place. It has a beginning, a middle, and an end. There is usually a problem. It gets solved during the story. Narratives can tell true stories. They can also tell stories that the writers have made up with their imagination. 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 explains or describes the subject of the text. The text may be about people. It may be about things or events. Expository texts are true. They give facts, such as dates and places. Newspapers, some magazines, dictionaries, encyclopedias and your 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 with his imagination, is it a narrative, or expository text?

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

3) If you are reading something that explains about the American Revolution, what kind of text are you reading?

4) If you are reading a story about a boy who rides on a dinosaur, are you reading a narrative or an expository text?

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

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