“Nonfiction texts govern as much as 90% of the reading and writing done by literate adults and comprise more than 70% of standardized assessments. For our children to succeed in school and beyond they need to know how to plan, compose, revise, edit, and publish a range of nonfiction texts.”

—Tony Stead and Linda Hoyt

Explorations in Nonfiction Writing is a highly adaptable curriculum resource for teaching 5 major purposes for writing nonfiction—to inform, to instruct, to narrate, to persuade, and to respond.
The Authors

Nonfiction writing fills our lives—and their teaching

• **Linda Hoyt**
  – staff developer & curriculum specialist
  – wrote several books for teachers including
    *Make It Real: Strategies for Success with Informational Texts*

• **Tony Stead**
  – elementary and university-level instructor
  – books include *Is That a Fact?: Teaching Nonfiction Writing* and
    *Reality Checks: Teaching Reading Comprehension with Nonfiction*
Explorations in Nonfiction Writing

A Guide to Teaching Nonfiction Writing

- a rationale for teaching nonfiction writing to primary students
- tips for equipping your classroom
- teaching tools and routines that support effective nonfiction writing instruction
- a shared resource for K–2 & 3–5 PLCs
Explorations in Nonfiction Writing

Lesson Book

• all of the core resources you’ll need to plan, teach, and assess nonfiction writing

• organized around 5 major purposes for writing nonfiction—to inform, to instruct, to narrate, to persuade, and to respond

• each purpose for nonfiction writing is explored in two ways—Extended Writing Units (EWUs) and Power Writes
Explorations in Nonfiction Writing

Extended Writing Units (EWUs)

• in-depth studies of 10 or more sequential lessons—two weeks to a month in length

• involves students in complete research-to-presentation writing process

• gradual release of responsibility framework—first guided exploration of a text structure, then models through a collaborative project, finally individual projects

• explicitly details teaching moves, language, and tips for differentiating instruction
Power Writes

• compact minilessons (30-40 minutes) that encourage students to try a wide variety of nonfiction texts—signs, letters, labeled diagrams, reports, directions, and interviews

• easily integrated across curriculum—science, social studies, math, and language arts classes

• includes modeled writing samples that illustrate the strategy being taught

• Supporting and Extending feature suggests ways to apply the new learning with increasing sophistication.
**Big Book of Mentor Texts (K–2)**

- **anthology of exemplar nonfiction texts**—showcases key features of nonfiction texts
- **expansive 14"×18" format**—ideal for group reading and analysis
- each text supports one or more lessons
- build background knowledge and promote visual literacy

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**How to Draw a Dolphin**

- **Materials**
  - paper
  - a pencil
  - a good eraser
  - grey crayons or colored pencils

1. Use a pencil to lightly draw a big half circle.
2. Add a big curve at one end and follow the half circle back. Leave the other end open.
3. Draw the flukes at the open end. Make each one look like a big triangle with a little square cut into the bottom.

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**Washington, D.C.**

- **Learning on vacation? Yes!**

Do you think you can learn to live with a great city? Can you drive your best friend on time, get your dog's collar on, and be home by Friday's lunchtime? If you can, you can take a trip to Washington, D.C.—a trip that's sure to be fun!

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Explorations in Nonfiction Writing

Mentor Texts (3–5)

- 6 posters (20” x 30”) per grade level model how text and visuals work together
- a book of blackline masters are easy to photocopy and share
- address real-world information
- build background knowledge on a range of cross-curricular topics
Explorations in Nonfiction Writing

Resources CD-ROM

- printable resources support teaching throughout the year
- tools for students—picture alphabet cards, editing and revising checklists, and self-assessment forms
- tools for teachers—daily planners, instructional charts, and ongoing monitoring sheets
- provides all of the mentor texts in a reproducible format
...and the Common Core State Standards

- **Writing**—lessons help you guide students in writing informative/explanatory texts that examine and convey complex ideas and information clearly and accurately

- **Reading**—the *Big Book of Mentor Texts* supports students in reading a broad array of complex informational texts

- **Speaking and Listening**—regular research projects require students to participate effectively in a range of conversations and collaborations

- **Language**—through reading and writing, students are taught the conventions of standard English and the proper use of general academic and domain-specific words
Explorations in Nonfiction Writing

**Additional Resources**

*Crafting Nonfiction, Primary & Intermediate*

- targeted, ready-to-use minilessons (15 minutes)
- model the traits of good writing from ideas and organization to authentic voice
- strategies for using conventions to pace and clarify the message
- meaningful ways to integrate nonfiction writing across your curriculum
Explorations in Nonfiction Writing

Additional Resources
Nonfiction Writing DVDs, K–2 & 3–5

- instructional DVDs support professional development (120 minutes + guide)
- model ready-to-use strategies
- walk you through a collaborative, whole-class unit on report writing
- demonstrate craft lessons that lift the quality of writing
Thank you for sampling this resource.

For more information or to purchase, please visit Heinemann by clicking the link below:


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