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# What Makes a Good Non-Fiction Text Work

KS3 ENGLISH

Ages 11-14 ⌚ 3 min read

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## What is Non-Fiction?

**Non-fiction** is writing about real things that actually happened or really exist. Unlike stories or novels, non-fiction aims to inform, explain, or teach you something true. Good non-fiction texts have special features that help readers trust the information and understand it clearly.

## Clear and Accurate Information

The most important feature of a good non-fiction text is that it tells the truth. Writers should use **facts** - information that can be checked and verified - rather than opinions or guesses. A good non-fiction writer explains their ideas in a way that's easy to follow, using language suited to their audience.

Think of it like following a recipe: if the instructions are clear and accurate, your cake turns out right. If they're confusing or wrong, the cake won't work!

## Organization and Structure

Good non-fiction texts are organized logically so readers can follow the information step-by-step. Writers use **headings**, **paragraphs**, and **sections** to break up information into manageable chunks. This structure helps readers find what they're looking for and understand how ideas connect to each other.

## Evidence and Sources

Strong non-fiction texts include **evidence** - real examples, statistics, or quotes from experts - that back up the main points. Good writers often explain where their information comes from, which is called **citing sources**. This shows readers the information is reliable and they can check it themselves if they want.

Think of it like showing your homework: when you explain how you got your answer, your teacher knows your work is real and thorough.

## Appropriate Language and Tone

A good non-fiction text uses language that matches its purpose and audience.

**Technical terms** should be explained so readers understand them. The **tone** – the writer's attitude – should be fair and respectful, not trying to trick readers into believing something false.

## Visual Aids

Many strong non-fiction texts include **diagrams, photographs, maps, or charts** that help explain ideas visually. These visual aids make complex information easier to understand and more interesting to read.

When you're reading or writing non-fiction, look for these features to spot a quality text that will teach you something valuable and true.