

FICTION vs. NONFICTION



Fiction vs. Nonfiction



- Not real
- Read for entertainment
- Illustrations
- Dialogue
- Characters, setting, problem, solution
- Beginning, middle, end
- Read in sequential order
- Includes fantasy, realistic, and other types of fiction

- Real and factual
- Read to learn
- Photos, charts, diagrams, and other text features
- Table of contents, index, glossary
- Bold print, italics
- Different text structures including sequential, cause and effect, compare and contrast, problem and solution, and descriptive
- Can sometimes be read out of order
- Includes "How to", historical, scientific texts

Brooke's Mountain

Every summer, Brooke anticipated going to visit her Aunt Tammie. Brooke and her dad made the three-hour flight once a year from New York to Colorado for a very special day. Brooke's birthday was August 14th and so was Aunt Tammie's. They celebrated their birthdays together every year since Brooke was born. It was a family tradition.

Aunt Tammie's house was nestled in a cozy village location on the outskirts of Breckenridge. Her backyard had a rather considerable, grassy lawn. It sloped down to a humble canal brimming with water that Aunt Tammie used to irrigate her crops. From the canal side of the canal rose a perfectly textured mountain. The mountain wasn't immense, nor was it close enough to have snow on top year-round. Brooke loved that mountain though. It was her mountain.

For as long as she could remember, she longed to climb to the highest peak of that mountain. She dreamt of scaling the mountain at maximum speed while the gentle breeze fluttered through her hair. She even endured grueling practices back in her hometown at the local rock climbing gym in order to be safe and prepare for the climb. "I wonder what it's like at the top of that mountain," Brooke would always inquire. "Can we climb the mountain this year?"

Her dad's reply was always the same. "No, Brooke, you're too little to climb the mountain," he'd say. "That mountain is just entirely too steep."

At night, Brooke could hear the sound of the brisk wind in the trees and the harmonious chirping of crickets in the not so far distance. Some nights, she would venture out of bed and open the curtains to get a better listen, but almost immediately, she would dreamily gaze up at the mountain and get lost in all of its enchantment. It seemed so close that she felt that with a little stretch of her hand, she could touch it. The moonlight left most of the mountain in a shadowy haze. Brooke often dozed off to sleep listening to the rustling voice of the wind. In her dreams, the wind would tell her about hidden places on the mountain.



A Record-Breaking Climb

Since its origin in the late 19th century, rock climbing has grown from a part of mountaineering to a sport all its own. It consists of someone using their hands and feet to climb mountains and other landforms, many times reaching death-defying heights. Rock climbing can be a dangerous and difficult sport. It requires great strength and stamina. For most, it is considered challenging and requires years of training. But for one young girl, climbing one of the most famous, vertical rock formations was not just a challenge, but a goal that she would soon achieve.

Born to Climb

Selah Schwaner's parents Mike and Joy both share a love of climbing. In fact, they met on a climbing trip more than 15 years ago. Mike is an American Mountain Guides Association-certified rock guide. He taught Joy some climbing tips. The first time the two climbed together was at El Capitan, along with Mike's friend Mark. El Capitan is a famous mountain range in California and is known for being difficult to climb, because it is over 3,000 feet high from the base to the top! Eight months after that climb, Mike and Joy got married. In 2009, Selah was born. Shortly after, her rock climbing journey began with a trip to the bottom of El Capitan at two months old.



Selah, at 3 days old, gets her first taste of rock climbing.



Selah quickly fell in love with rock climbing. She began practicing with her dad and was able to climb on top rope while wearing a body harness at just 18 months old. By the age of five, she was already learning to ice climbing. The only problem was the traditional tools were too large for Selah's small hands. Her dad began crafting special tools that were not only durable, but the perfect fit for Selah's small hands.

For her sixth birthday, Selah had an interesting birthday wish. She wished to climb a desert tower, which is a short mountain range. This wish would quickly come true just one year later. At seven years old, Selah climbed her first desert tower on Otto's Route in Colorado. This made Selah love climbing even more!

FICTION vs. NONFICTION

4th & 5th grade

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Each story includes:

- 1 page of multiple choice and short response questions
- 1 Graphic organizer



ABOUT LEXILE LEVELS



MagiCore Learning, LLC is a certified Lexile® Partner. These texts are officially measured and approved by Lexile and MetaMetrics® to ensure appropriate rigor and differentiation for students.

The Lexile Framework® for Reading measures are scientific, quantitative text levels. When the Lexile of a text is measured, specific, measurable attributes of the text are considered, including, but not limited to, word frequency, sentence length, and text cohesion. These are difficult attributes for humans to evaluate, so a computer measures them.

Common Core State Standards uses Lexile level bands as one measure of text complexity. Text complexity ranges ensure students are college and career ready by the end of 12th grade. Lexile measures help educators scaffold and differentiate instruction as well as monitor reading growth.

Grade Band	Lexile® Bands Aligned to Common Core Expectations
K-1	N/A
2-3	420L-820L
4-5	740L-1010L
6-8	1185L-1385L

Keep in mind when using any leveled text that many students will need scaffolding and support to reach text at the high end of their grade band. According to Appendix A of the Common Core Standards, "It is important to recognize that scaffolding often is entirely appropriate. The expectation that scaffolding will occur with particularly challenging texts is built into the Standards' grade-by-grade text complexity expectations, for example. The general movement, however, should be toward decreasing scaffolding and increasing independence both within and across the text complexity bands defined in the Standards."



How to Teach Fiction vs. Nonfiction

Model

Hold up two books, one fiction and one nonfiction. Ask students what type of text each book is. As students respond, ask them to show how they determine the type of text.

Probing questions:

- Is the book real or not real? How do you know?
- Why would someone read this book?
- Are there illustrations or photographs?
- How is the book set up?

Understanding if a book is fiction or nonfiction can help us make before reading predictions. If the book is fiction, we know there will be characters, setting, problem, and solution. If the book is nonfiction, we know we will be learning about a topic.

Guided Practice

Collect a large range of fiction and nonfiction books. Ask students to help you sort them into a fiction and nonfiction pile.

Visuals

- Create an anchor chart displaying the difference between fiction and nonfiction.
- Students sort the text excerpts provided.
- Students use the fiction and nonfiction bookmarks to identify books while reading independently.

Differentiation

- Model determining the difference between fiction and nonfiction while previewing read aloud books.
- Use more visuals, such as the cover sorting pictures, to model genre sorting.
- Students who struggle with this skill may need more exposure to nonfiction books. Provide many opportunities for nonfiction reading and noticing text features.

A Record-Breaking Climb

Since its origin in the late 19th century, rock climbing has grown from a part of mountaineering to a sport all its own. It consists of someone using their hands and feet to climb mountains and other landforms, many times reaching death-defying heights. Rock climbing can be a dangerous and difficult sport. It requires great strength and stamina. For most, it is considered challenging and requires years of training. But for one young girl, climbing one of the most famous, vertical rock formations was not just a challenge, but a goal that she would soon achieve.

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Defying the Odds

In 2018, Selah began setting a new goal. She wanted to climb El Capitan with her father. He created a special training program for Selah. Her training included proper climbing techniques, safety tips, and 500-foot climbs. While training with her dad was important, Selah wanted to make sure that she knew what to expect once she got up on the mountain. She spent countless hours researching the mountain and its features. She did not want any surprises to stop her journey. While preparing for her first practice climb, Mike made sure his daughter was prepared for the difficult climb ahead.



On June 12, 2019, Selah became the youngest person recorded in history to make it to the top of the “The Nose” Route on the 3,000 foot El Capitan. It took five whole days, but she completed this climb along with her dad, Mike and his friend Mark. Selah, who stood only 4-foot, 2-inches tall was overcome with emotions once she finally reached the top. “She just kept saying ‘I can’t believe I did that,’ and I was like, ‘Yeah I can’t believe it either,’” said her dad. “Our mindset was never just, ‘Oh we got this,’ it was more of, ‘We just gotta keep on it and keep going.’ So to finally get that moment, we were all really blown away,” he said.



Motivating Others

Selah hopes that her determination motivates other children to follow their dreams and get more active. When asked about why her goals were so important, her father replied, “Whether it’s biking, climbing, skiing, she always wants more kids to be active and not be on their phones. I think that’s some of our motivation to talk about it. It’s really near and dear to her.”

Brooke's Mountain

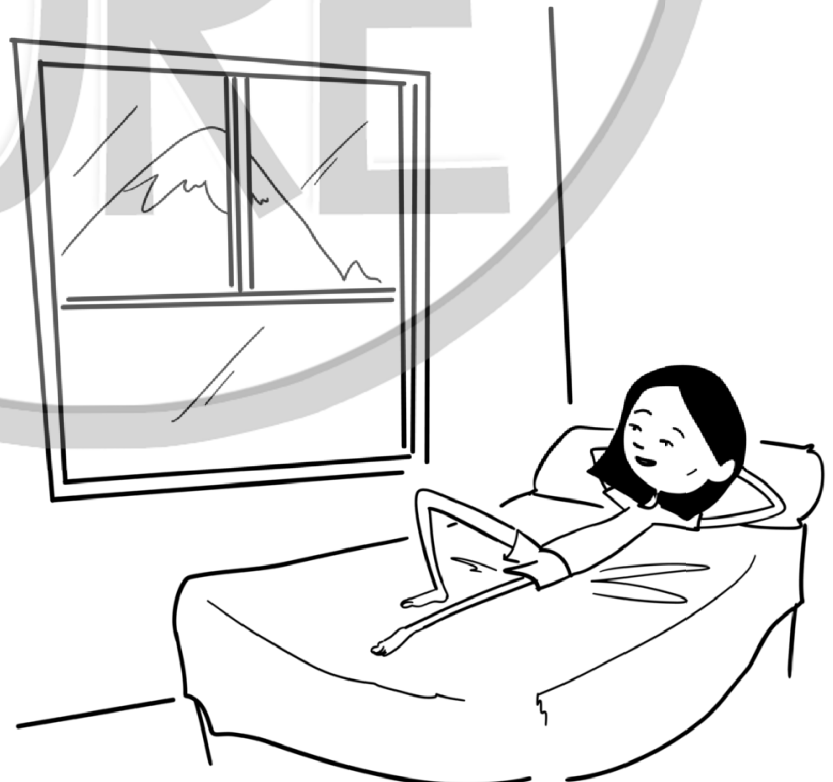
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This year was an extra special birthday for Brooke. She turned thirteen! Her dad provided music and festivities while Aunt Tammie baked a Red Velvet cake, which was Brooke's favorite. As Brooke primed to blow out her birthday candles, she silently wished that this year her dad would overcome his angst and allow her to climb the mountain. All those thoughts diminished as her dad yelled, "Time for gifts!!"

Brooke feverishly began unwrapping her presents. The first was a modest, yet unusual bag that read "Get Ready for a New Adventure." Inside the bag were some rather bizarre birthday presents: sunblock, a hat, and a water bottle. A puzzled look came over Brooke's face, but she hesitantly proceeded to the next box. Inside, she discovered a new pair of hiking shoes, rope, and a harness. Suddenly, Brooke realized the purpose of the gifts. Her face lit up as she beamed at both her dad and Aunt Tammie. "Thank you so much!" she said. "When can we go?" "Wait one minute. I'll be right back," Aunt Tammie replied.



"Well, Brooke," her dad said with an enormous smile, "I think you're finally old enough to tackle that old mountain!" Brooke embraced her dad and then quickly sat to lacing up her sturdy new shoes.

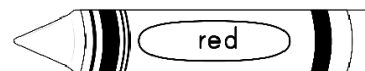
Aunt Tammie returned wearing her very own hiking boots and gear. "Let's start a new birthday tradition," she said as she handed Brooke a pair of durable gloves. Then, the two walked hand in hand towards the mountain as the wind gently whispered all the adventure to come.

Fiction vs. Nonfiction

Answer the following questions. Underline the text evidence in the color shown.

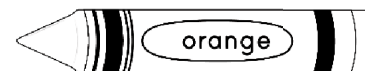
1. One way the two selections are similar is that both the selections—

- a. focus on Brooke wanting to climb a mountain.
- b. explain how Selah prepared to climb El Capitan.
- c. describe the importance of safety when rock climbing.
- d. show that rock climbing is a dangerous sport for kids.



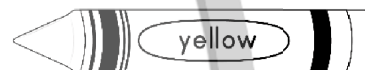
2. How are the two selections different?

- a. One is told from the perspective of an outside narrator's point of view, and the other is told from a dad's point of view.
- b. One is a fiction story about a girl who wants to rock climb, and the other is a nonfiction passage about a girl who rock climbs.
- c. One persuades the reader to participate in rock climbing, and the other persuades the reader not to participate in rock climbing.
- d. One is written only for children, and the other is written only for adults.



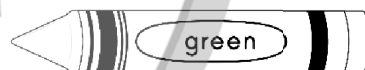
3. Unlike "Brooke's Mountain," "A Record-Breaking Climb" includes—

- a. details of the training hours one must complete before climbing a mountain.
- b. a description of the type of harness used by young rock climbers.
- c. information about rock climbing classes that kids can take in Colorado.
- d. a true account of a girl who became a successful rock climber at an early age.



4. In both passages, rock climbing is described as—

- a. an easy sport that takes little practice.
- b. too dangerous for anyone to attempt.
- c. a sport created only for girls.
- d. a sport that takes special training and preparation.



5. What fact is given only in "A Record-Breaking Climb"?

- a. Before it became an actual sport, rock climbing was considered just a part of mountaineering.
- b. In order to be safe, rock climbers use special tools such as a rope and harness.
- c. There are mountains and mountain ranges in various parts of Colorado.
- d. It takes about three hours to fly in an airplane from New York to Colorado.



A Record-Breaking Climb vs. Brooke's Mountain

Directions: Sort the excerpts from the two passages below.

FICTION

What is the purpose?

What are the images?

How is the text organized?

- Who are the characters?
- What is the setting?
- What is the problem?
- What is the solution?

NONFICTION

What is the purpose?

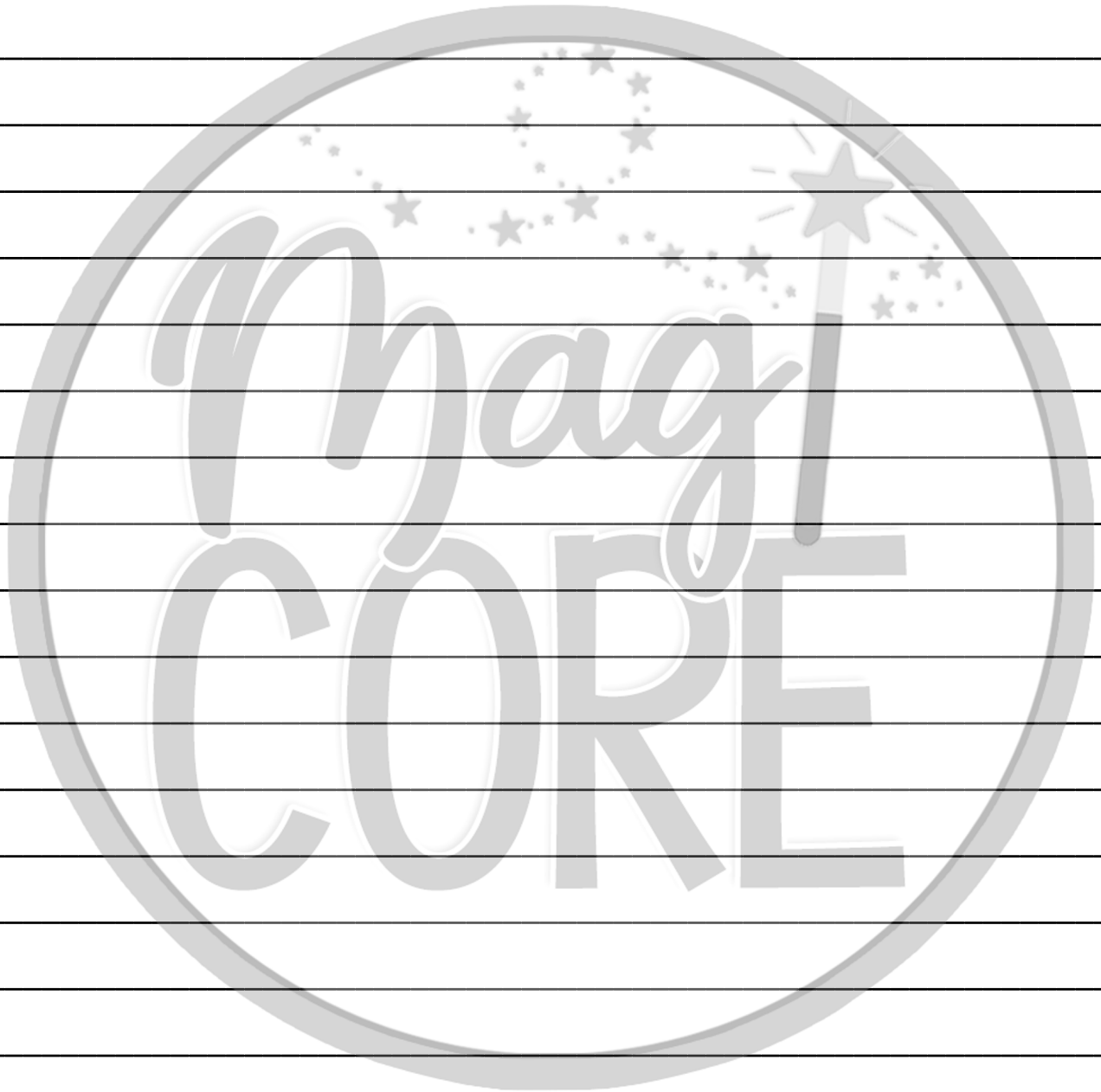
What are the images?

How is the text organized?

What topic is the author discussing?

A Record-Breaking Climb vs. Brooke's Mountain

Which passage is fiction and which passage is nonfiction? Use evidence from the previous organizer to support your response.



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Good to Go



Not O.K.

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