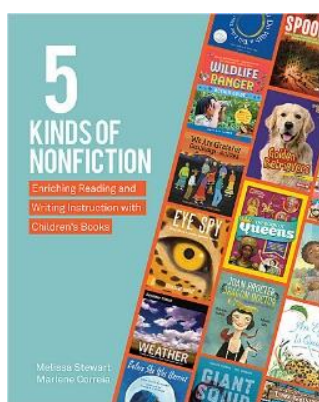


5 Kinds of Nonfiction and Student Purpose

In writer's workshop, students are often asked to think about "author purpose." But when it comes to reading and writing and thinking and learning, it's also important to consider the *student purpose*.



5 Kinds of Nonfiction



How can the 5 Kinds of Nonfiction classification system help students work more enthusiastically and efficiently?

How can it help them interact more successfully with nonfiction as they conduct research, craft nonfiction writing, and explore the topics that interest them most?

5 Kinds of Nonfiction includes a plethora of examples, strategies, and classroom-ready activities that address these important questions. But because we know your time is precious, the quick-reference table below, found on page 49, summarizes all that information one place.

TABLE 4.1 Best Nonfiction Book Category by Purpose

Student Purpose	Nonfiction Category
Learn about a broad topic in a systematic way	Traditional nonfiction
Learn about a broad topic in digestible chunks or with an emphasis on visuals	Browseable nonfiction
Share fascinating facts with friends	Browseable nonfiction
Understand a past time and place	Narrative nonfiction
Understand how the personality and experiences of a person contributes to their accomplishments	Narrative nonfiction
Understand the processes scientists use to understand the world and how it works	Narrative nonfiction
Understand a focused idea, such as a STEM concept	Expository literature
Learn a new skill	Active nonfiction
Gather research	Early in the process: Traditional nonfiction Later in the process: Browseable nonfiction, expository literature
Use as a mentor text for writing	Procedural writing: Active nonfiction Personal narratives: Narrative nonfiction Informational writing: Expository literature, browseable nonfiction