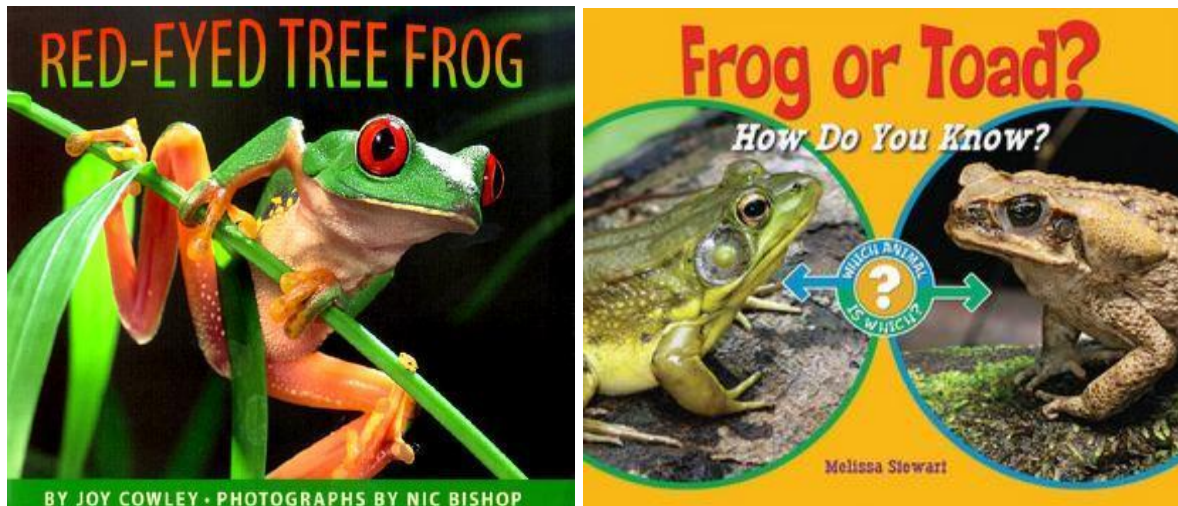


Narrative or Expository: An Activity

One of the best ways for you and your students to gain a solid understanding of the difference between narrative and expository writing styles is to read and compare the books *Red-Eyed Tree Frog* by Joy Cowley and Nic Bishop (narrative) and *Frog or Toad? How Do You Know?* by Melissa Stewart (expository). These books are short and simple, and they're both about frogs.



As you read *Red-Eyed Tree Frog*, you can easily identify all the elements of a good story.

- Pages 2-3 Author introduces setting (evening in the rain forest)
- Pages 4-5 Author introduces main character (the red-eyed tree frog)
- Pages 6-7 Author introduces main conflict (the frog is hungry)
- Pages 8-9 Frog searches for food
- Pages 10-11 Frog searches for food
- Pages 12-13 Author introduces subconflict (a hunting boa constrictor)
- Pages 14-15 Rising tension (snake moves toward frog)
- Pages 16-17 Rising tension (snake spots frog)
- Pages 18-19 Resolution of subconflict (frog jumps to safety)
- Pages 20-21 Frog spots a moth
- Pages 22-23 Resolution of main conflict (frog eats moth)
- Pages 24-25 Falling action (frog climbs onto leaf)
- Pages 26-27 Falling action (frog goes to sleep)
- Pages 28-29 Satisfying circular ending (morning comes to rain forest)

Before you begin reading *Frog or Toad? How Do You Know?*, take a few minutes to preview this expository nonfiction book in search of text features. You will find a table of contents (page 2), glossary (page 3), list of references (22-23 pages), and index (page 24). As you page through the main text, you will notice headings, photos with labels, and boldfaced glossary terms.

As you read, you will see that the book is organized as follows:

Pages 4-5	Introduction
Pages 6-7	Compares skin of frog (verso) to the skin of the toad (recto)
Pages 8-9	Compares length of back legs of frog (verso) to length of back legs of toad (recto)
Pages 10-11	Compares body shape of frog (verso) to body shape of toad (recto)
Pages 12-13	Compares teeth of frog (verso) to teeth of toad (recto)
Pages 14-15	Compares song of frog (verso) to song of toad (recto)

At this point, stop reading for a moment and ask a question: What is the book's text structure? Even elementary readers who have recently been introduced to text structures can easily answer this question. It's Compare and Contrast.

Now flip to the end of the main text and examine the colorful double-page infographic. It provides a fitting conclusion by summarizing all the frog vs. toad characteristics described throughout the book.

By reading these books aloud and discussing them, both adults and students can gain a solid understanding of the key differences between narrative nonfiction and expository nonfiction writing styles.