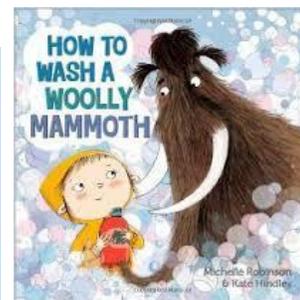
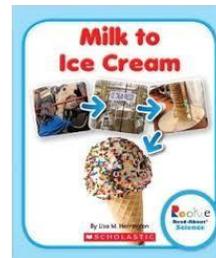
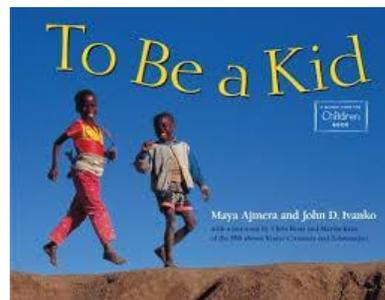
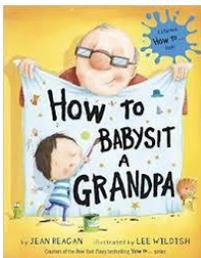


## Bay City Public Schools Sample Mentor Text to Teach K-2 Informational Reading and Writing

“By using mentor texts, the reader can virtually position him or herself to sit beside the author and study how the text is constructed and how it communicates. It is a powerful teaching and learning strategy...”

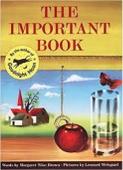
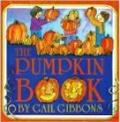
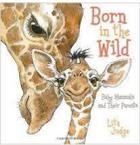
-The Writing Thief, Ruth Culham

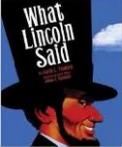
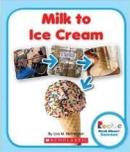
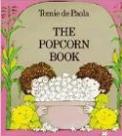
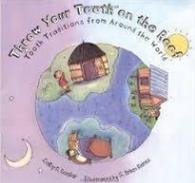


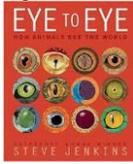
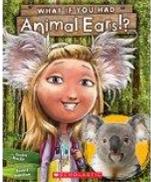
## Sample Kindergarten-2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Writing Informational Mentor Texts

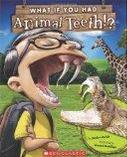
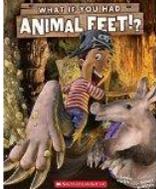
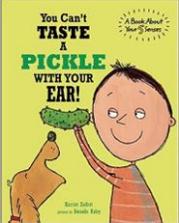
The mentor texts listed below are samples of picture books that could be used in the classroom when teaching students how to write an informative/explanatory piece.

Using a specific set of questions to analyze the craft within a mentor text can open students to new ideas to consider in their own writing. The questions/prompts listed on the following page assists students with comprehension, analyzing and evaluating informative/explanatory pieces as well as developing informative/explanatory writing skills.

Informational Text	Additional Information
<p><i>The Important Book</i> by Margaret Wise Brown</p> 	<p>The important thing about <i>The Important Book</i> -- is that you let your child tell you what is important about the sun and the moon and the wind and the rain and a bug and a bee and a chair and a table and a pencil and a bear and a rainbow and a cat (<i>if he wants to</i>). For the important thing about <i>The Important Book</i> is that the book goes on long after it is closed. What is most important about many familiar things -- like rain and wind, apples and daisies -- is suggested in rhythmic words and vivid pictures.</p>
<p><i>Frogs</i> by Gail Gibbons</p> 	<p>Gibbons describes their tadpole beginnings, noises they make, body parts and how they live.</p>
<p><i>The Pumpkin Book</i> by Gail Gibbons</p> 	<p>Gibbons describes how pumpkins come in different shapes and sizes, how they grow, and their traditional uses and cultural significance.</p>
<p><i>Born in the Wild: Baby Mammals and Their Parents</i> by Lia Judge</p> 	<p>What do grizzly bear cubs eat? Where do baby raccoons sleep? And how does a baby otter learn to swim? Every baby mammal, from a tiny harvest mouse "pinky" to a fierce lion cub, needs food, shelter, love, and a family. They're not so different from us!</p>
<p><i>To Be A Kid</i> by Maya Ajmera and John Ivanko</p> 	<p>TO BE A KID celebrates kids as they play and learn, as they spend time with their friends and family, and as they discover their environment and the world.</p>

Informational Text	Additional Information
<p><i>What Lincoln Said</i> by Sarah Thomson</p> 	<p>The story of one of America's most revered presidents—in his own words!</p>
<p><i>Milk to Ice Cream</i> by Lisa M. Herrington</p> 	<p>Through vivid photos and engaging text, this fun and fact-filled book answers the question, How is ice cream made? Milk to Ice Cream lets kids follow the exciting step-by-step process as milk goes from farm to factory where it becomes a cold, creamy treat.</p>
<p><i>Mr. Ferris and His Wheel</i> by Kathryn Gibbs Davis</p> 	<p>Capturing an engineer's creative vision and mind for detail, this fully illustrated picture book biography sheds light on how the American inventor George Ferris defied gravity and seemingly impossible odds to invent the world's most iconic amusement park attraction, the Ferris wheel.</p>
<p><i>The Popcorn Book</i> by Tomie dePaola</p> 	<p>What popcorn is, how it's stored, and how it's cooked, plus legends and recipes.</p>
<p><i>From Wax to Crayon</i> (Welcome Books: How Things Are Made)</p> 	<p>How are crayons made? In this fun and informative book, curious readers will discover how crayons are made from start to finish.</p>
<p><i>The Fourth of July Story</i> by Alice Dalgliesh</p> 	<p>Two-time Newbery Honor author Alice Dalgliesh makes history come alive in this accessible story of America's birthday.</p>
<p><i>Throw Your Tooth on the Roof: Tooth Traditions From Around the World</i> by Selby Beeler</p> 	<p>What do you do when you lose a tooth? Do you put it under your pillow and wait for the tooth fairy? Not if you live in Botswana! In Botswana, children throw their teeth onto the roof. In Afghanistan they drop their teeth down mouse holes, and in Egypt they fling their teeth at the sun! Travel around the world and discover the surprising things children do when they lose a tooth.</p>

Informational Text	Additional Information
<p><i>How to Babysit a Grandpa</i> by Jean Reagan</p> 	<p>Written in a how-to style, the narrator gives important tips for "babysitting" a grandpa, including what to eat for snack (anything dipped in ketchup, ice cream topped with cookies, cookies topped with ice cream) what to do on a walk (find lizards and dandelion puffs, be on the lookout for puddles and sprinklers), and how to play with a grandpa (build a pirate cave, put on a scary play).</p>
<p><i>How to Wash a Woolly Mammoth</i> by Michelle Robinson</p> 	<p>Things can get a bit messy when you try to wash a woolly mammoth. Follow this step-by-step guide to successfully clean up your hairy friend. Be forewarned! A mammoth's tummy is terribly tickly.</p>
<p><i>How to Be A Baby...By Me, The Big Sister</i> by Sally Lloyd Jones</p> 	<p>The know-it-all big sister narrator tells it like it is: When you're a baby you don't read books. You eat them. You don't know how old you are, or even if you're a boy or a girl. And you have to keep a special plug in your mouth to stop your scream from coming out. But one day, you won't be little anymore, and then you'll be taller and smarter, and actually quite clever. Like the narrator. And you'll be able to share memories of what it was like when you were little with your incredible Big Sister.</p>
<p><i>Eye to Eye: How Animals See the World</i> by Steve Jenkins</p> 	<p>Steve Jenkins explains how for most animals, eyes are the most important source of information about the world in a biological sense. The simplest eyes—clusters of light sensitive cells—appeared more than one billion years ago, and provided a big survival advantage to the first creatures that had them. Since then, animals have evolved an amazing variety of eyes, along with often surprising ways to use them.</p>
<p><i>What if You Had Animal Ears!?</i> by Sandra Markle</p> 	<p>What if you woke up one morning and your ears weren't yours? What If You Had Animal Ears explores what would happen if you looked in the mirror and saw an animal's ears instead of your own! This book, explores incredible ears from the animal kingdom. From the elephant's tremendous ears to the jack rabbit's mood ears, discover what it would be like if you had these special ears--and find out why your ears are just the right ones for you!</p>
<p><i>What if You Had Animal Hair!?</i> by Sandra Markle</p> 	<p>If you had a polar bear's double coat, you would never have to wear a hat when playing in the snow. If you had reindeer hair, it could help you stay afloat in water. And if you had a porcupine's hair, no bully would ever bother you again!</p>

Informational Text	Additional Information
<p><i>What if You Had Animal Teeth!?</i> by Sandra Markle</p> 	<p>WHAT IF YOU HAD ANIMAL TEETH? takes children on a fun, informative, and imaginative journey as they explore what it would be like if their own front teeth were replaced by those of a different animal. This book explores how different teeth are especially adapted for an animal's survival. At the end of the book, children will discover why their own teeth are just right for them.</p>
<p><i>What if You Had Animal Feet!?</i> By Sandra Markle</p> 	<p>WHAT IF YOU HAD ANIMAL FEET? will teach kids about the amazing variety of feet in the animal kingdom and their specialty functions! From cheetahs' fast feet to mountain goats' nimble climbing hooves, to flies' sticky feet!</p>
<p><i>You Can't Taste a Pickle with your Ear</i> By Harriet Ziefert</p> 	<p>Why can't you hear a siren with your eyes? Spot an airplane with your hands? And how come a pickle on your ear isn't delicious? In <i>You Can't Take a Pickle with Your Ear</i> kids discover how each of their five senses is hard at work all day long, providing them with information and helping them get the most out of their daily lives. Whenever you think, "I'm oh-so-sweet," Pull off your socks and smell your feet! Sections such as "Hold Your Nose" and "Stick Out Your Tongue" (not the same time!) encourage hands-on investigations of what's happening inside kids' bodies.</p>

# Sample K-2nd Informative/Explanatory Mentor Text Questions

Check grade level reading/writing standards when choosing which questions/prompts to address. Create additional prompts/questions based on the standards for your grade level.

To answer the questions or address the prompts, students should use evidence from the text to support their answers. This can be done by drawing, writing, or orally responding.

## Illustrations

- Did the author include illustration with the book? Who is the illustrator?
- What kinds of illustrations were included? (diagrams, photos, maps, charts, graphs, tables)
- Did the illustrations help to understand the text better? Why or why not?
- Were labels and captions used? If so, did they help to understand the information better? Why or why not?

## Text Structure

- Did you use the table of contents or the index? For what? Was the information located quickly?
- Are there headings and subheadings in this text? Did they help you “see” how information is presented?
- What is the topic of this piece/section/page? Is it easy to locate?
- Are there other ways information is presented in the book, chapter, or passage?

Examples include:

- Information is chronologically ordered
  - Information is listed
  - Information is shown in comparison or contrasted
  - Information is written in cause and effect relationship
  - Information is narrated as a problem and solution
  - Information is presented as a main idea or topic and then has ideas with supporting details
- How does the author introduce the topic? What techniques does the author use to hook the reader?
  - How does the author develop the topic? (With facts, definitions, details, questions or other information and examples?)
  - How did the author close the piece, section, or book?

## Content

- What does the author teach about the topic? Do we have questions?
- What topic(s) does this book or chapter describe?
- Is the information easy to understand? Why or why not?
- What facts were easiest to learn about? Why?
- What else would you like to know about this topic? How can you find it?
- Give some examples of specific clue words the author uses that let you know he/she is stating an opinion/fact.
- Does this book provide recent information? Is there a better source of information?
- What qualifies the author to write this information? What kind of research did that author have to do to write the text?

## Style

- Do you understand what the author is saying? What information is the easiest/hardest to understand? Why?
- What could the author have done to make the information easier to understand?
- Would this book or information be different if it were written 10 years ago? Why?
- By reading, did you discover anything that could help you outside of school?
- Was the information well organized? Give an example of why or why not.
- Is the information told straight to you or is it in story form?

### Resource questions were adapted from:

Boyles, N. (2004). Constructing meaning: Through kid friendly comprehension strategy instruction. Gainesville, FL: Maupin House.

Owocki, G. (2013). The Common Core writing book, K-5: Lessons for a range of tasks, purposes, and audiences. Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann.