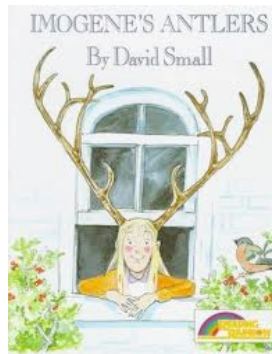


Identify Fiction & Non-Fiction

Imogene's Antlers

Written and Illustrated by David Small



Description:

Imogene woke up one morning to find big antlers growing from her head. The day progresses as Imogene learns to adapt to her new “look.” Fortunately, the problem only lasts for one day...but what’s next?

Connections:

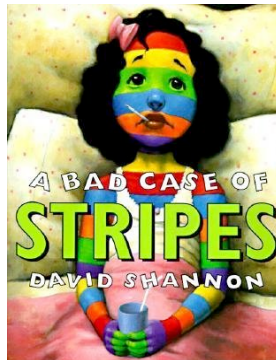
There is no doubt that, *Imogene's Antlers*, is a fiction story. Our first clue comes from the cover illustration showing Imogene with her new appendages. For some children, the book's extreme example of fiction is just what is needed to fully understand the concept.

To extend student's thinking, ask them to cast themselves in a similar fiction story, but challenge them to pick a different item such as: Jeffery's tail, Yoon's long tongue or Pranav's claws. What advantages and obstacles might they face?

Identify Fiction & Non-Fiction

A Bad Case of Stripes

Written and Illustrated by David Shannon



Description:

One day Camilla woke up with a bad case of “stripes.” Could this have something to do with her love of lima beans?

Connections:

This is a clear example of fiction. After reading the story, it might be fun to go back through the book together and make a list of all the different patterns presented. Challenge the children to think of even more. Students could then draw themselves with patterned skin and sing a song to match.

(Tune: Where is Thumbkin)

I like (polka dots,) I like (polka dots.)

On my skin, on my skin.

(Polka dots) are cool, (polka dots) at school.

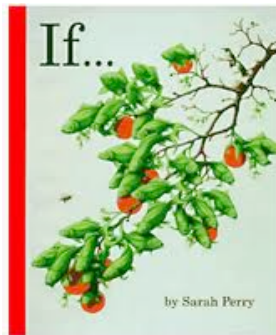
On my skin, on my skin.

Switch out the (polka dots) for each different pattern and sing again. Reinforce that students are drawing fictional characters.

Identify Fiction & Non-Fiction

If...

Written and Illustrated by Sarah Perry



Description:

Imagination at it's best. Each page has a phrase with an accompanying beautiful illustration. Examples: "If cats could fly...If mice were hair...If worms had wheels." This book is a visual treat that clearly illustrates the word "fiction."

Connections:

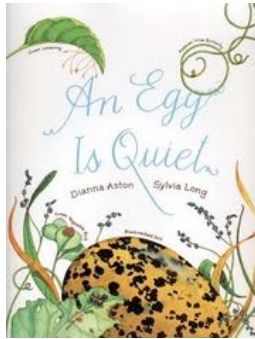
This book could be used to explain the word fiction at the beginning of the year. While the phrases are imaginative, the illustrations are very literal. When she says, "If caterpillars were toothpaste..." the picture shows a caterpillar being squeezed from a tube onto a toothbrush. It's all in good fun.

Another way to use this book is to save it for later in the year. After reading the story, invite children to respond by writing and illustrating their own "If..." stories. They will surprise and amaze you with their own interesting connections.

Identify Fiction & Non-Fiction

An Egg Is Quiet

Written by Dianna Aston...illustrated by Sylvia Long



Description:

This ink and watercolor book is a work of art. Over fifty different eggs of birds, insects, reptiles and fish are drawn in detail with many accompanying facts included.

Connections:

While many non-fiction books are filled with photographs, the illustrations in this book are beautiful enough to hang on the wall. Sharing this book broadens the narrow view of what is non-fiction. Following the book, watch some videos online of babies hatching from eggs.

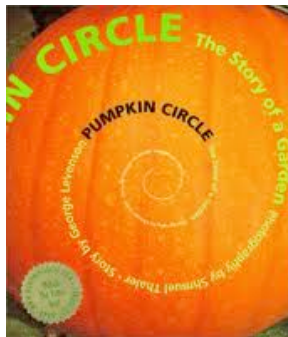
Questions to ask:

- How are the eggs the same?
- How are they different?
- How can you tell what's inside from the looking at the egg?
- What more do you wonder about eggs?

Identify Fiction & Non-Fiction

Pumpkin Circle, The Story of a Garden

Written by George Levenson...Illustrated by Shmuel Thaler



Description:

Pumpkin Circle is a stunning non-fiction book about the pumpkin life cycle. Photographs help tell this age-old story.

Connections:

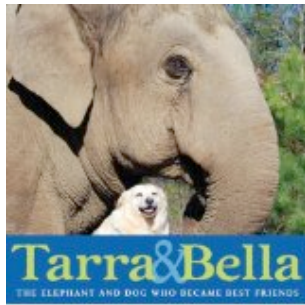
If you can't visit a pumpkin patch, this is the next best thing. Each page is a treat with something to notice and discuss.

- Ask the children what they notice about the words on the cover of the book.
- How are pumpkin seeds alike and different?
- What does the root system remind you of?
- What does a pumpkin patch look like?
- How big is a pumpkin leaf? Compare to the orange-gloved hands.
- What do you notice about the pumpkin flower?
- How many leaves could be in a pumpkin patch?
- How did they write words on the skin of a pumpkin?
- Who is the man dressed in black with the orange gloves and brown hat?
- Decomposition...What do you suppose that means?

Identify Fiction & Non-Fiction

Tarra & Bella The Elephant and Dog Who Became Best Friends

Written and Illustrated by Carol Buckley



Description:

Can a dog and an elephant become best friends? The compelling story follows the journey between an unlikely pair, Bella the dog and Tarra the elephant at the Tennessee Elephant Sanctuary.

Connections:

Many non-fiction books are filled with facts to learn but this book tells a true story. It would be a good exercise to compare several types of non-fiction texts side by side and have the children flush out the differences between them.

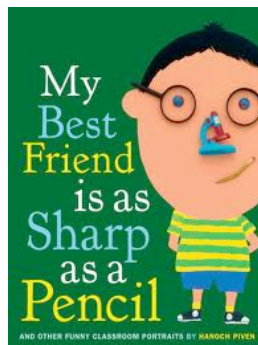
There are many connections that can be made in this book: the importance of friendship despite differences, conservation and care of animals. Visit www.elephants.com to learn all about the Sanctuary and animal stewardship.

Another book, in the same vein, is *Owen & Mzee, The True Story of a Remarkable Friendship*, by Isabella Hatkoff, Craig Hatkoff and Dr. Paula Kahumbu. In this story a baby hippopotami, named Owen, is rescued and brought to Haller Park, a wild life sanctuary in Africa. There, he befriends an Aldabra tortoise named Mzee.

Identify Fiction & Non-Fiction

My Best Friend is as Sharp as a Pencil

Written and Illustrated by Hanoch Piven



Description:

In the book, a little girl makes collage style pictures of her classmates using “object art” to show her Grandma.

Connections:

At first look, the main character is drawn, but her friends at school are made from objects such as crayons, shoes, bells, magnet letters, buttons, glasses, balls and more. The characters in the story are fiction but what they are made out of are real objects...non-fiction. This book is an example of how the lines of fiction and non-fiction can be a bit fuzzy. Children often want to make snap judgments about books but this text invites deeper thinking.

Identify Fiction & Non-Fiction

Fast Food

Written by Joost Elffers and Saxton Freymann



Description:

How many ways do we move from place to place? We walk, skip and ski. Other times we ride in buses, planes, helicopters and more. Clearly, the text is non-fiction but the photographs complicate the issue. Real food is used but in a way that points to non-fiction.

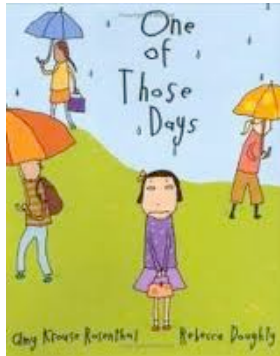
Connections:

Take this book and wrap paper over the cover to hide the photographs. Read the text to the students and ask them to discern if they think it is fiction or non-fiction. After hearing the words, most students will say non-fiction. Take the cover off, show the illustrations and ask if they still believe the book is non-fiction. Whatever the answer, this book will spur some lively discussion.

Identify Fiction & Non-Fiction

One of Those Days

Written by Amy Krouse Rosenthal...Illustrated by Rebecca Doughty



Description:

We all have “one of those days” when nothing goes right. The good news is that it only lasts for one day...tomorrow is a chance to begin again.

Connections:

How would you classify this book? Fact or Fiction? The hand drawn illustrations might make you guess that the book is fiction. The text...it depends on your experience and viewpoint. Here are some examples of different types of days spotlighted in the book:

“Nobody’s listening to you day.”

“Itchy sweater day.”

“Answer to everything is no day.”

There will be many opinions on whether this book is fact or fiction. Asking students to justify their opinions is a way to encourage higher level thinking. The discussion is more important than coming to a fact/fiction consensus. Sometimes it’s good enough to say this book is a bit of both or it depends on how you look at it.