

Authentic Texts for Common Core Instruction

Texts that support CCSS must contain the specific characteristics necessary to measure different standards. According to the standards, the two kinds of texts that should be used in CCSS aligned instruction and assessments are literary and informational texts.

I. Literary Texts:

Stories

- For K-5: includes children’s adventure stories, folktales, legends, fables, fantasy, realistic fiction, and myth
- For 6-12: includes subgenres of adventure stories, historical fiction, mysteries, myths, science fiction, realistic fiction, allegories, parodies, satire, and graphic novels)

Dramas

- For K-5: includes staged dialogue and brief familiar scenes
- For 6-12: includes one-act and multi-act plays, both in written form and on film

Poetry

- For K-5: includes nursery rhymes and the subgenres of the narrative poem, limerick, and free verse poem
- For 6-12: the subgenres of narrative poems, lyrical poems, free verse poems, sonnets, odes, ballads, and epics

II. Informational Texts:

Literary Nonfiction

- For K-5: includes biographies and autobiographies
- For 6-12: includes the subgenres of exposition, argument, and functional text in the form of personal essays, speeches, opinion pieces, essays about art or literature, biographies, memoirs, journalism, and historical, scientific, technical, or economic accounts (including digital sources) written for a broad audience

Historical, Scientific, and Technical Texts

- For K-5: texts about history, social studies, science, and the arts; technical texts, including directions, forms, and information displayed in graphs, charts, or maps, and digital sources on a range of topics.

- For 6-12: includes historical, scientific, technical, or economic accounts (including digital sources) written for a broad audience.

All texts should display:

- Craft: at a level that is noteworthy and or widely recognized
- Significance: the text is seminal or influential in its respective genre
- Content: the text contains ideas or themes that are interesting, engaging, provocative, and significant

Selected texts need not have all three of these criteria, but the standards demand that some of them are present in selected texts.

Informational texts should display:

- Relevant and accurate content
- A clear point of view and/or purpose
- A discernible main idea and a developed and clear organizational structure
- Any argumentation in the text should contain claims supported by evidence in the text

Literary texts should display:

- Significant themes that can support analysis
- A developed and clear narrative structure
- A clearly discernible point of view

Again, selected informational and literary texts need not have all of these criteria, but the standards demand that some of them are present in selected texts.

From <http://www.engageny.org/resource/selection-of-authentic-texts-for-common-core-instruction-guidance-and-a-list-of-resources>