

Informative Texts that Demonstrate the Seven Steps

Step 1: Plan for Success

Title	Author	Example
Do Not Lick this Book: It's Full of Germs	Idan Ben-Barak Julian Frost (Illustrator) Linnea Rundgren (Microscope photos)	A great informative story about Min the microbe for younger students to plot on a story graph.
The Book of Who? And Other Questions Asking Who?	Ray Bryant	Brainstorming and researching: This book has a range of 'who' questions that could be used to demonstrate deeper questions, for example: <i>Whose tongue is longer than its tail?</i> <i>Who reads back to front?</i> <i>Who were the first farmers?</i>
Life in a Rockpool	Greg Pyers	The book is structured very simply, with the question: <i>What are rockpools?</i> at the beginning and the question <i>What lives in a rockpool?</i> at the end. In between are short sections about all the creatures that make up a rockpool community.

Step 2: Sizzling Starts

Title	Author	Example
Exploding Wheelchair Wounds FBI Agent at House with Booby Trapped Tub	The Age Niraj Chokshi www.theage.com.au/world/north-america/exploding-wheelchair-wounds-fbi-agent-at-house-with-booby-trapped-tub-20181003-p507f9.html	Start with action: <i>The house on Dreamhill Drive was a nightmare waiting to happen.</i> <i>Outside, a minivan rigged with steel animal traps blocked the driveway. Near the home, a gate was booby-trapped to send a circular hot tub rolling towards anyone who opened it, like the boulder that bore down on Indiana Jones in Raiders of the Lost Ark.</i>

(Step 2: Sizzling Starts)

Title	Author	Example
Eco-Friendly Airlander 10 Will Soon Be Taking Tourists On Luxury Air Cruises	Dogo news Daksha Morjaria www.dogonews.com/2018/9/14/eco-friendly-airlander-10-will-soon-be-taking-tourists-on-luxury-air-cruises	Use a question: <i>What could be better than enjoying pristine water views aboard a luxurious cruise ship? How about floating leisurely across the skies inside a palatial airship that promises a bird's-eye view of our gorgeous planet?</i>
Seagrass Munching Bonnetheads Indicate Sharks Eat Their Greens Too!	Dogo news Meera Dolasia www.dogonews.com/2018/9/25/seagrass-munching-bonnetheads-indicate-sharks-eat-their-greens-too	Paint a word picture: <i>Mention the word shark, and the first image that comes to mind is that of a ferocious carnivore circling helpless prey. However, while the bonnethead enjoys meat as much as any other shark, it seems to love its greens as well ...</i>
Kazakhstan food: Why you should never insult a country's cuisine	Traveller Ben Groundwater www.traveller.com.au/kazakhstan-food-why-you-should-never-insult-a-countrys-cuisine-h162ud	Tell an anecdote: <i>I'm big in Kazakhstan. And by big, I mean incredibly unpopular. Hated, in fact. I may never be able to return to the land of eagle hunters and grand modern architecture. I've received actual death threats. I've been told to go back to riding kangaroos. My crime? I insulted the food.</i>
Fearsome Fuels – The Horrible Science Collection, Volume 18 Mean or Green? p. 8	Nick Arnold Tony de Saulles (Illustrator)	Start with a question: <i>From watching TV to driving in cars, keeping warm to buying goods, we humans need heaps of energy every day. But is the fuel we burn green and clean, or wasteful, harmful and mean?</i>
Kilogram Correction	Behind The News (BTN) Transcript: www.abc.net.au/btn/classroom/kilogram-correction/10611602	Start with a question: <i>You might think you know what a kilogram is – it sounds pretty obvious, right? Well this story might get you thinking a little deeper.</i>

(Step 2: Sizzling Starts)

Title	Author	Example
<p>Stories for Boys Who Dare to Be Different. True Tales of Amazing Boys Who Changed the World Without Killing Dragons.</p> <p>Ai Weiwei, p. 11</p>	Ben Brooks	<p>Paint a word picture:</p> <p><i>Imagine yourself in a blank grey room as big as a cathedral. And imagine that the room contains one hundred million sunflower seeds. Now imagine that, instead of sprouting from sunflowers, each of those seeds had to be handmade and painted by an actual person.</i></p>
<p>Stories for Boys Who Dare to Be Different. True Tales of Amazing Boys Who Changed the World Without Killing Dragons</p> <p>Jim Henson, p. 103</p>	Ben Brooks	<p>Tell an anecdote:</p> <p><i>Jim and his best friend Kermit used to spend whole days having adventures and collecting animals out in the woods. He'd bring them home, too. His grandma always had to check her chair before she sat down in case he'd left a turtle or a frog on it.</i></p>
<p>Beastly Bloody Body Bits – The Horrible Science Collection, Volume 10</p> <p>The Ruddy Red Stuff, p. 10</p>	Nick Arnold Robin Carter (Illustrator)	<p>Paint a word picture:</p> <p><i>As well as gloopy, red and gory, your blood is also very precious. Pumping and running round your body at a rapid rate, the super-soupy, ruddy red stuff does all sorts of jobs to keep you healthy and happy. So don't let Baron Frankenstein or Count Dracula get anywhere near it!</i></p>

Step 3: Tightening Tension

Title	Author	Example
<p>Gold Coast lifesavers' fight to save elderly man restored my faith in humanity (for older students)</p>	<p>ABC NEWS</p> <p>www.abc.net.au/news/2017-10-16/gold-coast-lifesavers-stranger-death-drowning-humanity/9048592</p>	<p>The Five + 1 Senses</p> <p><i>One minute I was holding my young daughter's hand, bracing ourselves as we entered the Gold Coast surf.</i></p> <p><i>The next, I was dragging a drowning man back to shore.</i></p> <p><i>I remember grabbing the floating man under the armpits, flipping him onto his back, and hauling him backwards towards the shore.</i></p>
<p>Do Not Lick this Book: It's Full of Germs</p>	<p>Idan Ben-Barak Julian Frost (Illustrator) Linnea Rundgren (Microscope photos)</p>	<p>Rule of Three</p> <p>The phrase <i>really, really, closely</i> occurs throughout the book which builds a rhythm that is used to speed up and slow down the pace of the text.</p>

Step 3: Tightening Tension

Title	Author	Example
Dig, Dig, Diggers (for ages 2-4)	Margaret Mayo	Rule of three Repetition of the phrase <i>dig, dig, digging</i> throughout the book is an example of the use of The Rule of Three and the repetition builds a rhythm which in turn can be used to speed up – and then slow down – the pace of a text.
ANZAC Biscuits	Phil Cummings & Owen Swan	Opposition and contrast The words and images contrast Rachel baking ANZAC biscuits with her Mum against her father and his fellow soldiers at war. This adds drama and builds tension throughout the text.
ANZAC Biscuits	Phil Cummings & Owen Swan	Rule of Three <i>Bowls, pots and pans tumbled to the floor.</i> <i>Bang crash bang.</i> <i>Shots rang out.</i> <i>Bang bang bang.</i>

Step 4: Dynamic Dialogue

Title	Author	Example
Crikey! Crocodiles and Alligators Snack on Fruit	LiveScience www.livescience.com/39198-crocodiles-alligators-eat-fruit.html	Quotes from scientists provide detailed information as well as changing the voice or tone: <i>Platt told LiveScience. 'Everyone just rejected the notion that crocodilians eat fruit because everyone supposed they only ate meat.'</i>
Having New Friends Is Not Baa-d	Midland Express	Quotations from Liam's mum focus on the emotional aspect of the friendship and make give the article a more personal tone. <i>'It's been a bit hard at times, but that's why this visit was important to us. To uplift him,' Camille said.</i> The quotations also change the 'voice' of the piece and make us feel we are there: <i>'It was awesome seeing Liam and Saturday together. Seeing the smiles – I mean sheep can smile, just like Liam smiled. It was so lovely,' said Pam Ahern, Edgar's Mission director and founder.</i>

Step 4: Dynamic Dialogue

Title	Author	Example
<p>Ancient Egyptian Pyramid Mystery Could Be Solved at Last with Accidental Discovery</p>	<p>Kids News Tom Whipple</p> <p>www.kidsnews.com.au/history/ancient-egyptian-pyramid-mystery-could-be-solved-at-last-with-accidental-discovery/news-story/334272df330674a783242c73d331f5f7</p>	<p>Quote from Yannis Gourdon of the French Institute for Oriental Archaeology is used to convey information:</p> <p><i>Excitingly, from the inscriptions on the ramp, they could tell it was at least as old as the pharaoh Cheops. 'That means that when Cheops made the pyramid in Giza they had the technology to transport huge stones on the huge steep slopes,' Mr Gourdon said.</i></p>
<p>SpaceX Successfully Launches World's Most Powerful Rocket and Sends a Car into Space</p>	<p>Kids News Nick Whigham</p> <p>www.kidsnews.com.au/news/spacex-successfully-launches-worlds-most-powerful-rocket-and-sends-a-car-into-space/news-story/e4253abdd76a49981ffdf92cdbcfe25</p>	<p>Quote used to alter the voice, pace or tone of the text and moves the action along:</p> <p><i>'I would consider it a win if it just clears the pad and doesn't blow the pad to smithereens,' the 46-year-old space visionary and wealthy businessman said on the eve of the \$114 million launch. He needn't have worried.</i></p>
<p>Bush to the Beach: 'It's Nice and Cool Compared to Back Home'</p>	<p>The Age Pallavi Singhal</p> <p>www.theage.com.au/education/bush-to-the-beach-it-s-nice-and-cool-compared-to-back-home-20190118-p50s7l.html</p>	<p>Quotes from the founder of the Bush to Beach program and a parent volunteer (Ms Boney) provides different points of view and alters the voice, pace or tone:</p> <p><i>'You can't put into words the look in their eyes the first time they see it, they want to go straight in,' said Jack Cannons, founder of the Bush to Beach program which brings students from disadvantaged communities in rural and remote NSW to Sydney for a three-day visit to the sea every year.</i></p> <p><i>'She's loving it, they couldn't wait to get into the ocean but my daughter was more worried about the shells, she wanted to pick some up and take some home,' Ms Boney said.</i></p>
<p>Good Night Stories for Rebel Girls</p> <p>Margaret Thatcher, p. 110</p>	<p>Elena Favilli & Francesca Cavallo</p>	<p>Quotes from each of the 'rebel girls' give a personal tone and provides different points of view.</p> <p>For example: <i>'You may have to fight a battle more than once to win it.'</i></p>

Step 5: Show, Don't Tell

Title	Author	Example
<p>Young Carer</p>	<p>Behind The News (BTN)</p> <p>Transcript: www.abc.net.au/btn/classroom/young-carer/10611812</p>	<p>One is powerful:</p> <p><i>Jacob is one of the 3 million Australians regularly caring for a loved one at home. His dad Peter has dementia so Jacob helps his mum look after him.</i></p> <p><i>'Every day I wake up in the morning, I get dressed, get his breakfast and everything ready and then I'll get the lunches ready and make sure dad's got everything he needs.</i></p> <p><i>Our roles have kind of swapped. Like, I'm now looking after him instead of him looking after me. But for many years, dad has done that and in an excellent way. I think of it like I'm paying him back for all the good things he's done for me.'</i></p>
<p>ANZAC Biscuits</p>	<p>Phil Cummings & Owen Swan</p>	<p>Walk a mile in their shoes:</p> <p>We feel empathy for the soldier trying to keep warm in cold snow.</p> <p><i>Snow was falling. The soldier turned his back to the bitter cold. He lifted his collar and lowered his unshaven face to feel the warmth of his own breath.</i></p>
<p>What was the War Like, Grandma? Emmy Remembers World War II</p>	<p>Rachel Tokin</p>	<p>Walk a mile in their shoes/one is powerful:</p> <p>A recreation of the war years from a child's point of view allows us to visualise what it was like to grow up during World War II. For example:</p> <p><i>At school there were air raid drills. When the siren sounded we assembled in quadrangle with our earplugs, dried food, bandages and a short piece of hose, all in a bag.</i></p>
<p>Do Not Lick this Book: It's Full of Germs</p>	<p>Idan Ben-Barak Julian Frost (Illustrator) Linnea Rundgren (Microscope photos)</p>	<p>Paint word pictures:</p> <p>Belly button:</p> <p><i>'Help yourself to a delicious chunk of dead skin.'</i></p> <p><i>'Ah. I do enjoy a drink of hot sweat on a hot day.'</i></p> <p><i>'Did I tell you about the time soap got all the way in here?'</i></p>

Step 5: Show, Don't Tell

Title	Author	Example
<p>Could an Octopus Climb a Skyscraper? ... and Other Questions.</p>	<p>Camilla de la Bedoyère Aleksei Bitskoff (Illustrator)</p>	<p>Paint word pictures: Showing the fact that octopuses change colour and shape. <i>What if an octopus went to a fancy dress party? She wouldn't need to shop for a costume. She could just change her colour and body shape. Under the sea, an octopus can pretend to be a snake, a rock or a fish. But at a party she could turn herself into a banana or a beach ball. She could even disappear by blending in with her background.</i></p>
<p>Dingo</p>	<p>Claire Saxby Tanya Harricks (Illustrator)</p>	<p>Paint word pictures: Conveys the facts that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dingoes are clever and determined hunters. • Sniffing into the wind is thought to allow more air in on the next breath, which will help dingoes detect prey. • Their sense of smell is up to 100 times better than that of humans. <p><i>Dingo sniffs the air, sniffs the ground, follows the scent she finds there. Can you smell what she smells? In the gully. Kangaroos. They are too big for Dingo to catch alone. She travels on. She climbs to the highest point and snuffs into the wind. Rabbits.</i></p>
<p>If the World Were a Village. A Book about the World's People. Third Edition</p>	<p>David J. Smith Shelagh Armstrong (illustrator)</p>	<p>One is powerful: At the moment, there are more than 7 billion people on the planet! It's hard to picture so many people at one time. This book shows you what it would be like if the whole world was just one village of 100 people. <i>In this Village: 21 people speak a Chinese dialect, 10 earn less than two dollars a day, 14 cannot read or write, 45 have a television in their homes and 47 do not always have enough to eat.</i></p>

Step 7: Endings with Impact

Title	Author	Example
Do Not Lick this Book: It's Full of Germs	Idan Ben-Barak Julian Frost (Illustrator) Linnea Rundgren (Microscope photos)	The final question links to the introduction , while making the reader think : <i>Where will you take Min tomorrow?</i>
Ivan: The Remarkable True Story of the Shopping Mall Gorilla (For older students)	Katherine Applegate G. Brian Karas (Illustrator)	Link to the introduction Start: <i>In leafy calm in gentle arms a gorilla's life began.</i> End: <i>In leafy calm, in gentle arms, a gorilla's life began again.</i>
The Flow of Water	Da-jeong Yu Mi-ye Jeong (Illustrator) Joy Cowley (Editor)	Link to the introduction: Start: <i>Water moves around, the sky, the earth and the sea. Early in the morning water rises as thick mist on the sea and mountains.</i> End: <i>As the sea receives the warm morning sun, a thick mist rises from it and the cycle begins again.</i>
I Am the Mummy Heb-Nefert	Eve Bunting David Christiana (Illustrator)	Link to the introduction: Start: <i>I am the mummy Heb-Nefert, black as night, stretched as tight as leather on a drum.</i> End: <i>I am the mummy Heb-Nefert, black as night, stretched as tight as leather on a drum. Once I was beautiful.</i>
The Mighty Murray	John Nicholson	The final section of the last chapter asks us to look to the future , asking, <i>Is it life or death for the once mighty Murray?</i>