

Year 5 Non-Fiction Writing: A Step-by-Step Guide for Parents

This step-by-step explanation to non-fiction writing can help you support your child's learning at home. The subject is broken down into manageable chunks, providing you with a simple guide to follow when exploring non-fiction writing together, either as part of homework or if you decide to give your child some extra support. Whether your child would benefit from more practise writing non-fiction texts or they are confident with this text type and want to find out more, you will find a step that matches where your child is at as well as some ideas for where to go next.

Within **this area of the website**, you will find a selection of resources intended to help your child learn about each step of this guide. Each step also contains a keyword or phrase that you can use to search the Twinkl site for more resources and activities designed to support your child in achieving that stage. Simply type the keyword or phrase into the search bar and press enter to explore together.

language features of non-fiction writing



Click here



We hope you find the information on our website and resources useful. The contents of this resource are for general, informational purposes only. This guide is intended to offer parents general guidance on what subject areas tend to be covered in their child's year group and where they could support their children at home. However, please be aware that every child is different and information can quickly become out of date. There are some subject areas that we have intentionally not covered due to the nature of how they are taught or because a trained professional needs to teach these areas. We try to ensure that the information in our resources is correct but every school teaches the national curriculum in its own way. If you would like further guidance or are unsure in any way, we recommend that you speak to your child's teacher or another suitably qualified professional.

Non-Fiction

What Is Non-Fiction Writing?

Non-fiction writing is factual writing or writing that is based on real events. It's the opposite of fiction - writing that describes imaginary people, settings and situations.

Non-fiction writing can take different forms. In year 5, your child will study a range of non-fiction text types, for example instructions, recounts (writing about what happened in the order it happened in), reports (a description of the characteristics of something), explanations (a technical explanation of how something happens or works), persuasive writing (convincing someone to do something) and discussions (putting forward a reasoned argument).

By year 5, children are expected to be able to plan their non-fiction writing according to what text type it is while also considering the audience and purpose for writing. They should use appropriate grammar and vocabulary along with words and phrases to link ideas together – such as conjunctions (e.g. and, so, but, joining two sentences together), connectives (e.g. firstly, furthermore, in addition to, linking ideas together) and pronouns (e.g. he, she, it) which help writing 'flow' and 'stick' together.

Your child should also be continuing to structure and organise their non-fiction writing using bullet points, subheadings and underlining.

As well as using the resources in this category and the suggested keyword searches to help your child with non-fiction writing, a few ideas for games and activities to help your child build up and develop their non-fiction writing skills are outlined below.

Make a Wanted Poster

Encourage your child to make a 'wanted poster' for the villain in the story they're reading. Include factual information such as what the character looks like, crimes committed and where he or she is most likely to be spotted. Is there a reward?

Interview Time

Encourage your child to use their imagination to create a comic strip version of a non-fiction book, explanation text or set of instructions that they've read. Can they add dialogue?

Scavenger Hunt

Ask your child to identify key technical vocabulary as they read through a non-fiction book or text. Can they create a glossary to describe what each word means for a family member to understand?

Summarise

Can your child summarise their non-fiction text in a single paragraph/ three sentences/ one sentence?



Step 1

Language Features of Non-Fiction Writing

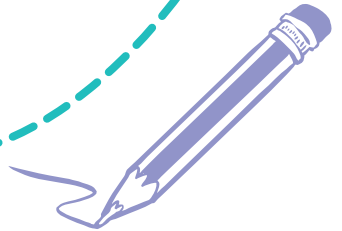
By year 5, your child will be expected to select and use appropriate and more ambitious vocabulary and grammar to suit the purposes of their non-fiction writing. They will be expected to use dictionaries and thesauruses to check the meaning and spelling of words they are using and to write glossaries of the more technical words they include. Take a look at this biography example text which shows you and your child how they should be written in year 5.



Organising Non-Fiction Writing

In year 5, your child will be expected to continue to use paragraphs as a way of grouping ideas about the same topic together as well as using headings, sub-headings, bullet points and underlining to organise their ideas and make their writing easier to read. At school, they will continue to build links between ideas and paragraphs using connectives, conjunctions and pronouns. Different non-fiction texts have different features and organisational requirements – this pack contains posters and information cards detailing the features of each one.

Step 2



Step 3

Planning Non-Fiction Writing

By this stage, your child should be able to create a detailed plan showing the form their non-fiction writing is going to take, bearing in mind the audience and purpose for their writing. There are six non-fiction genres: recounts, instructions, reports, explanations, persuasion and discussion. Each of these take on different forms – this pack includes planning sheets and information posters to help your child create the perfect plan for writing.



Writing and Editing Non-Fiction Writing

Once they have developed a plan, your child is ready to write their non-fiction text incorporating key features and language specific to the text type. By year 5, children should be able to evaluate and edit their writing afterwards, assessing the effectiveness of their own and others' work as well as suggesting ways to improve it. They should be able to discuss improvements to vocabulary, grammar and punctuation to enhance impact and clarify meaning. These activity sheets have been designed to help your child to 'uplevel' their writing in this way.

Step 4

Explore and Discover More

Twinkl Go! is a digital platform, hosting interactive content such as videos, games, audiobooks and more. Twinkl Go! enables digital content to be streamed to your computer or mobile device.



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Go!



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Book Club

Twinkl Book Club is our book subscription service. Enjoy our original works of fiction in beautiful printed form, delivered to you each half-term and yours to keep!



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Boost

Twinkl Boost is a range of intervention resources, created to support and lift learning with children at every level. These include our easy-to-use SATs and Phonics Screening resources.



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imagine

Imagine resources are designed to help your children to think creatively, question and imagine. Every week, a new topic consisting of five photos, each with related activities, is created.



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ORIGINALS

Twinkl Originals are engaging stories written to inspire pupils from EYFS to KS2. Designed to encourage a love of reading and help curriculum-wide learning through accompanying resources.



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KIDS' TV

Twinkl Kids' TV is our wonderful YouTube channel dedicated to fun and informative video-style resources full of new and creative activities you can try at home!