

## **Considering the Opportunities and Possibilities of Informational Text from a Science Perspective**

*As you evaluate informational text, think about what the text can and cannot do to support scientific literacy. A text may not do all these things, but minimally it should do several of these things simultaneously. The very best science books provide excellent information, demonstrate scientific thinking, provide models of excellent science writing and inspire questions and wonder.*

From an information or content perspective, does the text...

- contain accurate and up-to-date information?
- present information in an interesting and engaging way?
- provide adequate depth of information to provide a scaffold to acquire new knowledge and integrate with existing knowledge?
- develop concepts without oversimplification that could create gaps or foster misconceptions?
- inspire or support scientific questions and thinking?
- provide a model of excellent information writing?
- integrate words and graphic information in a coherent and meaningful way?
- develop vocabulary in context using natural language and supporting details?
- promote intertextuality (connections to other texts, experiences and the world)?
- utilize informational text features in a meaningful way (i.e. what do the table of contents, headings, graphics, etc. contribute to the book? Are they integrated into the text? )
- address multiple perspectives on a topic (i.e. is a balanced view presented on a critical issue?; is information presented without bias?)

From a science process perspective, does the text...

- provide a good model of scientific inquiry?
- promote scientific questions and thinking, curiosity and wonder?
- connect evidence and explanations?
- encourage the reader to verify claims and discoveries?
- share the importance of revision in science?
- promote creative problem solving and critical thinking?
- demonstrate how scientists gather, record and analyze data?
- show real scientists (culturally and gender diverse) engaged in the work of science?
- promote close observation?
- model the use of scientific tools and data collection techniques?