

Explain major differences between books that tell stories and books that give information, drawing on a wide reading of a range of text types.

## Text Type Activity—Narrative Text

This series of lessons will teach students the major differences between books that tell stories and books that give information. This lesson is for narrative text (literature). Use any of the Traditional Tales books for this lesson.

### Instruction

Did you know there are different types of texts, and when we know about the text type, it helps us understand what the book is telling us?

Who knows what we call the type of text that tells a story? That's right—it's narrative text or literature! Can you think of some examples of narrative text?

*(List titles of any books named by students.)*

What do we know about narrative texts? What do they have in common?

*(List any answers from students on the board.)*

Narrative texts have characters, who the book is about. Let's look at this book to see who the characters are.

*(Do a picture walk of one of the Traditional Tales books to see who the characters are and what you can learn about them.)*

Another characteristic of narrative texts is that they have a beginning, a middle, and an end. There is often some kind of problem that has to be resolved. We call this the plot. What can we tell about the plot of this book?

*(List any answers from students on the board.)*

Another characteristic about narrative texts is the setting. The setting is where the book takes place. Narrative texts often have a special setting that can be important in the story. What can we tell about the setting for this story?

*(List any answers from students on the board.)*

Narrative texts also have a theme. Let's read the book together and see if we can figure out what the theme is.

*(Read the book.)*

What did we learn about the theme of the book?

*(List any answers from students on the board.)*

Now let's review what we know about narrative texts-- what do they have in common?

*(Review plot, setting, theme, characters, etc.)*

**Note:** Traditional Tales are available from your Waterford Manager login. Select **Curriculum** and search by book title. Books are available in an online version in the **Activities** tab and a PDF version in the **Teacher Materials** tab.

Anansi and the Seven Yam Hills  
The Big Mitten  
The Brothers  
The City Mouse and the Country Mouse  
The Gingerbread Man  
Goldilocks and the Three Bears  
Henny Penny  
The Little Red Hen  
La Tortuga  
Lizard and the Painted Rock  
The Magic Porridge Pot  
Mr. Lucky Straw  
The Shoemaker and the Elves  
The Three Little Pigs  
The Three Wishes  
The Ugly Duckling

## Text Type Activity—Informational Text

This series of lessons will teach students the major differences between books that tell stories and books that give information. This lesson is for informational text.

### Instruction

Did you know there are different types of texts, and when we know about the text type, it helps us understand what the book is telling us?

Who knows what we call the type of text that tells us facts or tells about real life? That's right—it's non-fiction, or informational text! Can you think of some examples of non-fiction or informational text?

*(List titles of any books or types of books named by students, or types of books like biographies, autobiographies, books about history, social studies, science, the arts, and technical texts.)*

What do we know about informational text? What kinds of things do we usually see in non-fiction or informational text?

*(List any answers from students on the board.)*

Informational texts can include features like headings, labeled photographs, and illustrations to help you understand the information in the text.

Let's read this informational text together and look for the features we've just talked about.

*(Read **How to Grow a Garden**, included on pages 3-4 of this document.)*

Now let's review what we know about informational texts—what makes them different from story books?

*(List any answers from students on the board.)*

# How to Grow a Garden

Have you ever grown plants in your own yard? You just need the right tools seeds, and space. You can grow something you can eat even if you don't have a yard.

## Plan

The first step is to decide where to have your garden. Ask a grown-up to help you make your plan. Find a spot in your yard or on your balcony where the plants will get plenty of sun.

The next step is to make a plan of your garden. Decide how big your garden will be, then plan where each kind of plant will be. Think of the fruits and vegetables you like to eat, and work with a grown-up to find what grows well where you live. Tomatoes, peas, beans, carrots, beets, pumpkins, strawberries and lettuce all grow well in gardens.

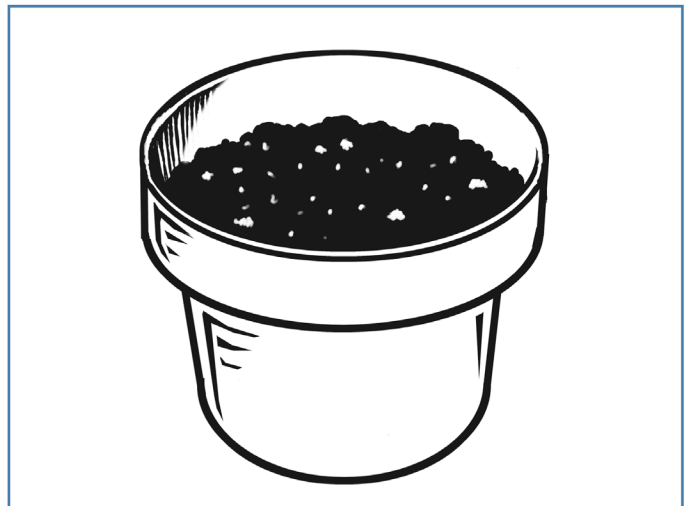
If you are planting a garden in your yard, work with a grown-up to clear the part of the yard. Take some string to mark out the perimeter of your garden. Put a stake in the ground at each corner and tie the string to the stakes. Clear this area of leaves and grass, or build a raised garden bed.

After you've decided what to have in the garden, mark on your plan where each kind of plant will go. Tall plants like tomatoes and peas should go on the north side of the garden so they won't block the sun for the other plants.

If you are growing a garden on your balcony, get some big pots to grow your plants in. Different types of plants can grow in the same pot. You might want to try themes for your pots. One pot could be used to grows toppings for a pizza: tomatoes, basil, oregano, and peppers. Another could be a spaghetti sauce garden pot, with a tomato plant, basil, garlic chives, oregano and parsley! Or, you could have a salad pot with lettuce, carrots, green onions, spinach, radishes and a tomato plant.

## Shop

Now that you've planned your garden, it's time to buy the seeds or plants. Many fruits and vegetables grow easily from a seed, but you might have better luck starting with a seedling.



## Plant

Gather all your tools, seeds and seedlings—it's time to plant your garden! Dig a long furrow or ditch to make a row. Drop the seeds along the ditch, then spread the dirt over the seeds. You might want to plant more than one row of your favorite fruits or vegetables.

Mark the row or pot so you can tell what kind of plant is growing there. You can tape the seed pack to a stake, or write the name of the plant on a small wooden stick.

## Water

After you've planted everything, your plants need water. You may not need to water your garden much if it rains a lot where you live. If there isn't much rain, you'll need to water your plants so they can keep growing.

Watch out for bugs! Some bugs and insects like ladybugs and bees are helpful and will eat other bugs or pollinate your plants, but other bugs are harmful. If you see bugs you think are harmful, ask a grown-up to help you get rid of them.

## Weed

It is also important to keep weeds out of your garden. They can crowd out the plants you want in your garden. Get help from a grown-up to find out if something is a weed or a plant, and pull out any weeds.

Some fruits and vegetables, like peas, strawberries, and lettuce, will be ready to harvest earlier in the summer. Other plants like tomatoes, carrots and pumpkins will take longer to grow before they'll be ready for you to eat them.

## Harvest

When you harvest the food from your garden, you may be surprised at how delicious the food is. The food you grow will help keep you strong and healthy.

