

Grades 6–7

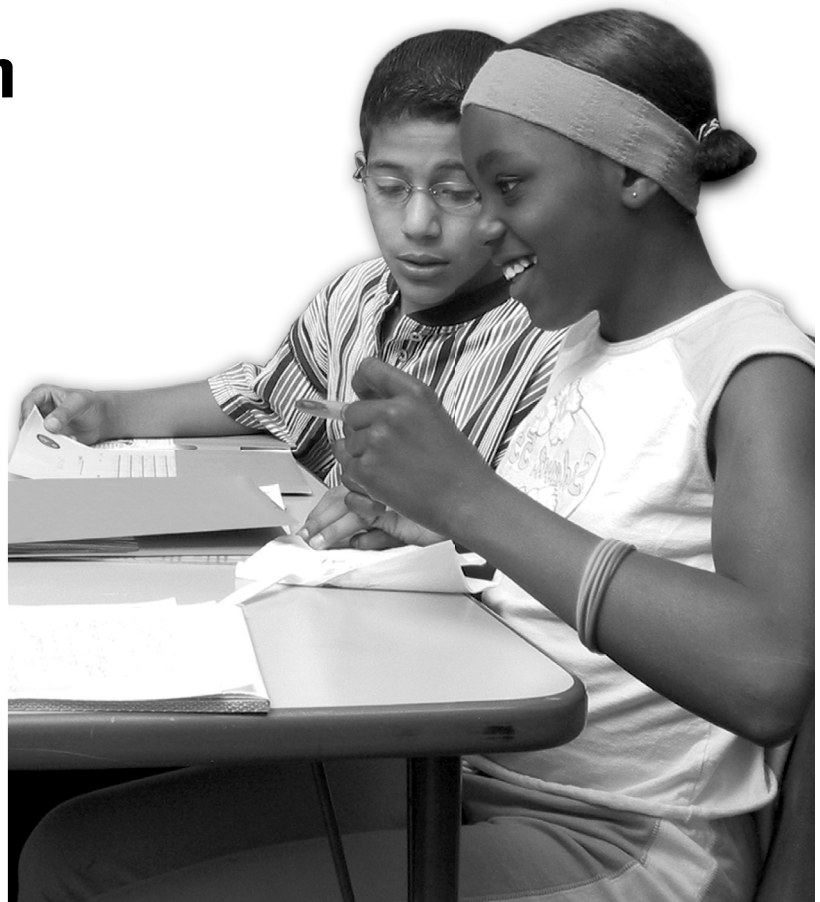
Toolkit Texts

Selected by **Stephanie Harvey & Anne Goudvis**

Short Nonfiction for Guided and Independent Practice

Correlated to

**The Comprehension
Toolkit**



From our perspective, we can never have enough short text.

It is accessible, to the point, and in a word—short! *Toolkit Texts* is designed to capture kids' interest, engage them in real-world reading, and give them time to just plain read! The real world is rich, fascinating, and compelling and kids love to explore it through reading. We hope these short nonfiction articles will bring a bit of that outside world into your classrooms. Enjoy!

Stephanie Harvey

Anne Goudvis

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Taste

1 **Bug Bites**

Did you know that lots of people eat bugs? In many parts of the world, bugs are considered nutritious, tasty, and perfectly safe to eat!



4 **How Do We Taste?**

From the five basic tastes—sweet, salty, sour, savory, bitter—come all the flavors we humans know and love. But how do we taste them? Find out!

Animals and Ecology

7 **Mystery Voices**

Spring through summer, the rhythm of frog songs give the night an audible pulse. Learn how these tiny critters make such loud noises.

8 **Frog Watching**

Frogs and other amphibians are becoming extinct at an alarming rate. Read what scientists have discovered about the causes and what you can do to help.

Myths

10 **The Loch Ness Monster: Anatomy of a Hoax**

Scotland's longest lake is home to one of the most enduring legends of our time. How did the legend start? And what have scientists found?

Weather

12 **On Deadly Ground: Storm Surge**

In late August 2005, Hurricane Katrina slammed into the coast and caused severe damage. Read about the devastating hurricane and the failed levee system.

14 **Tornado!**

This article explains the science behind tornadoes, how to stay safe, and strange-but-true tales from real twisters.

Sports and Safety

17 **Avalanche!**

Does a loud noise from a mountain climber cause an avalanche? Learn about the types of avalanches and what you can do to prevent them.

18 **Going Up: Life in the Death Zone**

Many mountain climbers have been killed on Mt. Everest, not from falls or avalanches, but by the effects of low pressure at extreme altitudes. Read the fascinating story of Edmund Hillary and learn about the dangers of high altitudes.

20 **Basketball Without Borders: The Globalization of the NBA**

How does the world change with the dramatic increase in globalization, the process of spreading objects and experiences to all people at all corners of the world?

Economics

22 **Watch Your Money Grow**

This article is an introduction to personal economics, with clear explanations about banking, interest, and saving money.

24 **Moneymakers**

Some people make their money by making money. Learn about the people of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing.



Freedom

27 **All Aboard the Underground Railroad**

Did the Underground Railroad actually have tracks and trains? Learn about the group of people who worked against slavery and for freedom.

30 **The Freedom to Learn**

Despite the injustices for African Americans during the 19th century, many children of former slaves learned how to read and write at special schools.

32 **Stealing Freedom on the Underground Railroad**

This map shows the routes that slaves traveled on the Underground Railroad with background about the movement and laws of the time.

34 **What is Child Labor?**

Millions of children are engaged in “child labor,” according to the International Labour Organization. Read about this tragic problem and follow the timeline to learn about efforts being made to solve it.

Arts and Education

37 **Education Is Our Hope**

Kids *can* make a difference in the world! Learn about a group of American high school students who made a positive difference in the lives of African children.



40 **Hip-Hop at the Museum?**

History museums have always looked at the past, but a new exhibit at the Smithsonian Institution is exploring the impact of hip-hop music and culture today.

42 **Music to Your Ears . . . or Hearing Loss**

Listening to that iPod can do more than fill your ears with tunes. Learn about the symptoms of hearing loss and how to prevent it.

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Read about the importance of the Nile River to ancient Egyptians and find the major pyramids on the map.

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Wanted: potters, embalmers, and scribes! If there had been newspapers in ancient Egypt, citizens might have read these job ads.

46 **All Wrapped Up: The Many Tasks of Mummy Makers**

You probably know that mummies are preserved dead bodies wrapped in cloth. But you might not know how many steps and how many people were involved in making mummies.

American History

50 **Fun and Games in Early America**

Just as they are for kids today, games and sports were an important part of the lives of Native American children growing up before 1492.

52 **Getting Well: Healing the Sick in Early America**

Read about herbalists, Native American healers who cared for the people of their village.

54 **Navajo Code Talkers**

A little-known group of Native American soldiers played an essential part in defeating the Japanese and Germans during WWII. Learn about these brave men and their secret code.

Democracy and Equal Rights

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Cesar Chavez organized a movement that fought for better working conditions for farm laborers. Learn about this American civil rights hero and his cause.

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Fernando Chavez speaks about his courageous grandfather and his contributions to the labor movement.

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American women didn’t always have the same rights as men. Two women inspired women across the U.S. to fight for the right to vote.



64 **The Changing Face of American Voters**

Many Americans take for granted their right to vote. But it hasn’t always been this way. Check out this timeline about important changes in the history of American voting.

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