

Grades 2-3

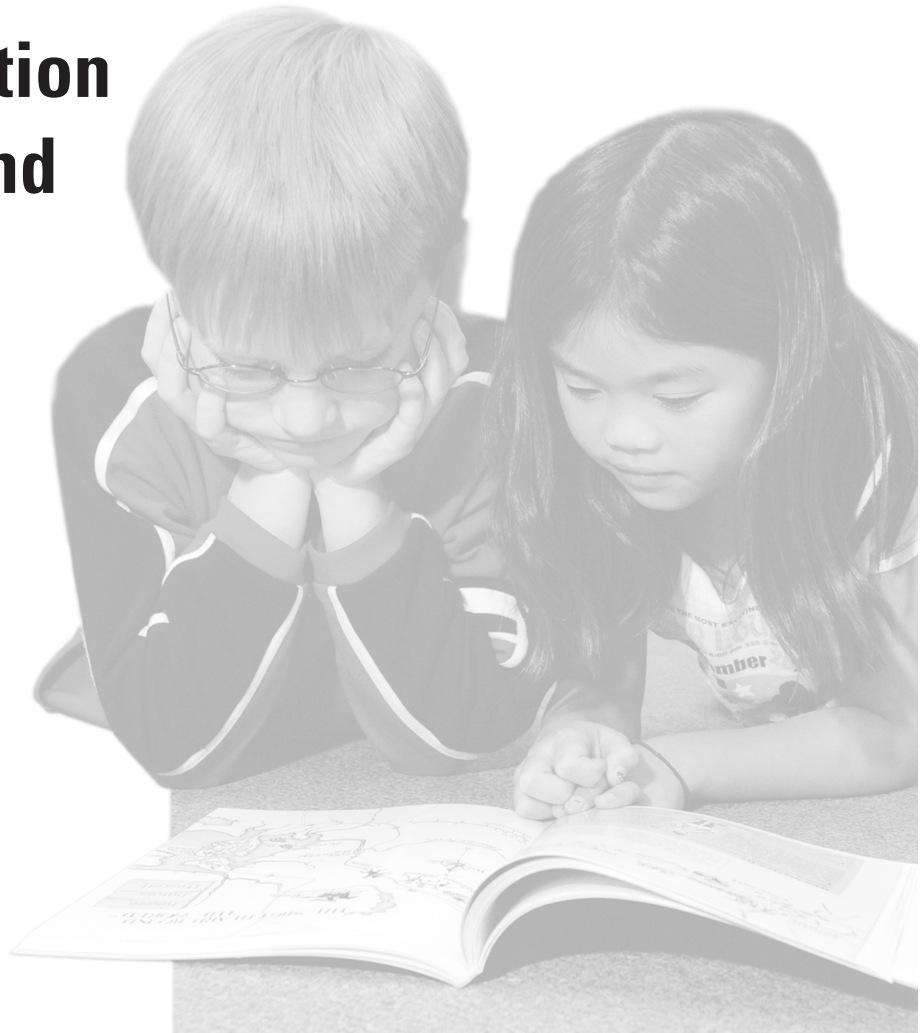
Toolkit Texts

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* are 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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1 Shadows

With playful photos and engaging text, this charming article explores how shadows are made.

Geology and Paleontology

5 Rock Secrets

From sandstone to limestone, every rock tells a story about the Earth's geologic history.

8 Fossils: Clues to the Dinosaurs

Fossils are a diary of the past – what do these clues and close-up photos reveal about the dinosaurs?

Ecology

10 Exploring Our Forests: What's that in your backpack?

Paper. Books. Pencils. If you dig through your backpack, you will find many things that come from the forest.

Animals and Adaptation

12 Fireflies

This rhythmic poem describes a summer evening alive with fireflies.

13 Penguins in Motion

This article combines rich, descriptive text with detailed photos to show penguins in motion waddling along, sliding on their bellies, and zipping through the water.

14 By Land, Sea, and Air

As the seasons change, animals travel to new homes. Well-written information and amazing photos describe migration of several species.

16 Whose Feet Are Whose?

Animals have special features on their feet to help them hop, walk, or paddle. Action photos and detailed drawings enhance learning.

18 Animal Ears: Adaptations for Hearing

Ears vary greatly in size, shape, and ability, and have a range of uses including finding food, beating the heat, and warning of danger.



20 Seeing with Sound

A long-eared bat swoops through the night, hunting for insects. Find out how it locates its food in the dark!

22 Slithering Snakes

A snake doesn't have fins or wings or feet to move from place to place. Learn how it moves its body forward.

24 Where Do I Live?

Thousands of animals live in the Amazon rain forest. Detailed drawings of rain forest animals and clear text bring the Amazon to life.

Ocean

26 Wings in Water

A huge, flat creature leaps out of the sea. Discover the manta ray through lively text and bright photos.

28 Breathing Underwater

Breathing oxygen keeps us alive, but how do animals in the ocean breathe? Learn about blowholes and gills through descriptive text, clear photos, and informative captions.

Growing and Changing

30 From Egg to Salamander

Great photos and numbered captions trace the lifecycle of the salamander from egg to adult.

32 My Puppy Is Born: Ella's Puppy Journal

Follow a new puppy's journey to life with a family through a young girl's diary entries.

34 The Horse Close Up

Take a closer look at horses through real-life photographs and informative captions.

36 Flying Again

Follow a group of veterinarians as they perform surgery on an injured eagle. Cheer as the eagle is released back into the wild.

Overcoming Disabilities

39 Reading with Your Fingers

How do people who can't see read? Braille, a special alphabet made of bumps, helps make reading possible.

40 **Animal Helpers**

Millions of Americans have pets, but service animals are special helpers trained to assist those with disabilities. This article explains a few types of service animals.

Literacy

42 **The World Is an Open Book**

A charming poem about the joy of reading.

Weather

43 **Crackle, Flash, Boom!**

Thunderstorms can be scary, but this scientific explanation and series of photos sheds light on the amazing phenomenon.

44 **Clouds**

Who hasn't wondered about the clouds above us? These easy-to-understand descriptions and photos capture the wonder of clouds.

Transportation

46 **Riding the Rails**

Close-up photographs with labels and sharp detail illustrate this informative article on trains. The factual captions and small chunks of information are as exciting as the pictures.

48 **Sam Goes Trucking**

Six-year-old Sam spends a day with his trucker dad in this entertaining photo-essay.



52 **On the Move**

See how people around the world move in different ways on land, on water, and through the air.

Countries of the World

55 **Celebrating the Day of the Dead**

Learn about how Mexicans celebrate *el Dia de los muertos*, the holiday honoring the dead.

56 **Mexico**

Map and facts are an age-appropriate introduction to the country to our south.



58 **Flying High**

Learn about how the Japanese celebrate Children's Day, the holiday honoring kids.

59 **Japan**

Japan is an island chain in the Pacific Ocean. This map shows the four large islands and major cities.

Native Americans

60 **Pow Wow!**

Each year, thousands of Native Americans gather at pow wows. Learn how they celebrate their culture through dance, music, and food.

Health and Fitness

62 **You Can Do Yoga**

Try a yoga pose to stretch your muscles and calm your mind. Clear directions and photos guide young readers.



Art

64 **Making Art out of Junk: Meet The Artist**

Meet an artist who uses pieces of junk to create colorful, fun creatures.

Space

65 **Moon Walking**

Imagine going on a trip 242,000 miles away! Learn what astronauts discovered on the first moon walk.

66 **Our Exciting Solar Neighborhood!**

Take a tour of our solar neighborhood, with a description of each planet and the new dwarf planet, Pluto.

68 **Aim for the Stars**

Meet Shirley Ann Jackson, a scientist who studies the small worlds inside atoms.