

Characteristics of Texts and Independent Reading Behaviors for the Middle of 5th Grade

Text Characteristics:

- Include a variety of genres and text structures
- Informational texts (non-fiction) cover a wide range of topics and present specific technical information
- Texts contain many sophisticated, multi-syllable words
- Illustrations require interpretation and connection to the text
- Fiction texts have several themes and characters
- A variety of text structures and formats are used
- Novels may be 200-300 pages long

The Product Review

Getting a product reviewed by magazines or TV shows can be great exposure for it. A company may not be able to control what is said about the product, but they almost always make their goods available. This lets reviewers check the product out and then write or talk about it. The company often provides support materials to the reviewer as well, including, for example, pictures of the products ready for publishing and technical details. Hopefully, the review will lead consumers to believe that the product is head and shoulders above the rest.

Product reviews can be a powerful tool in an ad campaign, especially when trying to introduce a brand new product. It can really help to hear from somebody who has already taken the plunge and tried the product out – and liked it. This can win over a skeptical consumer. It is doubly helpful if the review is written in ordinary language, so that it does not sound like advertising. That way, consumers know it is the real thing. A positive product review can really help to get your ad campaign off the ground.

10 MILE SNEAKERS
from Stick 'Em On Your Feet, Inc.

We expect quality from the folks at Stick 'Em On Your Feet. Their latest shoes, 10 Mile Sneakers, are no exception. They may be expensive, but they're worth it.

Non-fiction Text

Professor Rooster's Invention Diary

Anti-gravity Machine Project, Day 14

Today, I got up early, woke Klang, and got straight into a morning of inventing. The day didn't get off to a good start, unfortunately. After another inspection of the machine, I realized I needed to strip off the whole top half and replace the insides, as they were completely frazzled after yesterday's disasters. We took it apart, rebuilt the recombulator, added another fizzlestick, and replaced the gravity wibes.

Just as we were nearly ready to put the top back on, Klang dropped his electrohammer inside the machine. I don't think that would have been a problem if the electrohammer hadn't malfunctioned and gone completely bonkers. It started to leap around and hammer like crazy at all the new parts we had put in, as if it had a life of its own. By the time Klang managed to get it under control, it had already destroyed most of the parts. What a disaster! I think we're going to have to start all over again!

I spent the rest of the day designing a new machine, using all the knowledge I had gained from the first one. I've drawn up a blueprint – now all we have to do is build it. That can wait until tomorrow. It's late now and I need to go to sleep.

Fiction Text

Readers at this stage:

- Have an understanding of figurative language
- Analyze vocabulary words in terms of both literal and connotative meanings
- Use prior knowledge of political and historical events and about the problems of cultural groups
- Do a majority of their reading silently
- Will need to think critically about the text
- Notice aspects of writer's craft and structure (how does the author tell the story or give the information?)