**Non-Fiction**

What is non-fiction? Find out the different types of non-fiction texts, non-fiction writing techniques and ways to teach children about non-fiction.

## ****What is non-fiction?****

So, what is non-fiction? The definition of non-fiction any writing created with the intention of relaying truth or information of actual events to the audience - it's the opposite of [**fiction**](https://www.twinkl.co.id/teaching-wiki/fiction). It's often misidentified as the statement of [**facts**](https://www.twinkl.co.id/teaching-wiki/fact), but really, non-fiction can still form a narrative.

Non-fiction can come in a variety of forms including writings on history, [**biographical**](https://www.twinkl.co.id/teaching-wiki/biography) and autobiographical writing, opinions, journalism, essays and academic criticism.

When reading non-fiction, there's a certain level of trust by the audience that what you're reading is true. It's possible for facts to be misrepresented or interpreted with a [**bias**](https://www.twinkl.co.id/teaching-wiki/bias), but the information that non-fiction conveys should be true on a basic level.

For example, an opinion piece in a political magazine may only include factual details but it might omit certain details or over-emphasise the importance of others to make its own narrative. While writing like this isn't technically all truth and facts, it's technically still non-fictional.

## ****What's the difference between fiction and non-fiction?****

Non-fiction contains information that has been discovered and researched, while fiction is created using purely the imagination of the writer.

While some fiction may be based on or inspired by actual events, fiction writers typically make the events more exciting or the timeline of events easier to understand.

True non-fiction doesn't adjust or amend any of the facts - it simply presents them as they are and leaves the reader to interpret them as they like.

## ****What are the different types of non-fiction texts?****

The major types of non-fiction writing are:

#### [History](https://www.twinkl.co.id/teaching-wiki/history)

Historical non-fiction is the reporting of facts and accounts of events, a significant amount of time after they've happened. While historical non-fiction can have personal bias, for the most part, they're assumed to be reporting merely what happened as it happened.

#### Biographies and Auto-biographies

A biography is a long-form report based on the complete story of a single subject. Autobiographies are traditionally first-person accounts told by the author about the author. Biographies are third-person accounts of an individual or entity other than the author.

#### Travel

Travel texts can be either heavily factual guides to a particular place or point of interest. They can also be travelogues where the author discusses a place or places they've visited.

#### [Journalism](https://www.twinkl.co.id/teaching-wiki/journalistic-writing)

Journalism is the reporting of events often, as they're happening or in the immediate aftermath. While most often found in newspapers and magazines, it can also be found on TV and Radio news broadcasts and even in [**book**](https://www.twinkl.co.id/teaching-wiki/book) form.

#### [Opinion](https://www.twinkl.co.id/teaching-wiki/opinion)

An area of non-fiction that is self-aware of its representation of facts through the lens of the author, opinion writing can be comedic in its commentary on a factual event or even satirical by exaggerating events for comedic effect. It's based on the author's interpretation of existing events and not invented ones.

#### Guides and Instructions

Guides and instructions can be precise step-by-step guides on how to do something through to looser collections of tips on how one person either undertook or improved an activity.

#### Essays and Academic Criticism

Essays are focused on trying to provide the most comprehensive knowledge of a particular area as possible. They can range from literal texts on an area to philosophical texts, expanding on theoretical musings on human nature through to criticism which provides an interpretation of another text, non-fictional or fictional. Essays can often take the form of [**discursive writing**](https://www.twinkl.co.id/teaching-wiki/discursive-writing).

**Is non-fiction a genre?**

Broadly speaking, non-fiction is a genre alongside fiction. Both non-fiction and fiction are then divided into sub-genres.

Sub-genres of non-fiction could be:

* history;
* philosophy;
* geography;
* science;
* politics;
* religion;
* humour;
* and so on.

So while non-fiction can be called a genre in itself, it's a very broad generalisation.