

What Are Authentic Texts?

- Texts that reflect the print and non-print materials that occur naturally in the lives of children outside of school classrooms (Nuan, 1988).
- Texts by authors/illustrators for the purpose of communicating meaning to the reader rather than for language-teaching purposes (Purcell-Gates, 2001).
- An entire piece of writing (not an abbreviated form)

What Does Authentic Reading Include?

- Reading experiences that are relevant, useful, and meaningful
- Choice of text selection across a wide array of genres, topics, and authors
- Sufficient time to read texts daily
- Opportunities to respond to text - bring out the pencils, crayons, and costumes!

Why Is Reading Authentic Texts A Great Idea?

- Choice of reading materials increase motivation and comprehension
- Authentic texts on one topic, author, genre, etc. increase background knowledge and enhance comprehension
- Children gain autonomy and self-efficacy when they read authentic texts they can and want to read

- Emotional involvement of child positively impacts comprehension
- Children read more often and read for longer blocks of time when they are interested in the content of the text

**Choice of authentic texts + time to read =
enhanced comprehension and love of reading**



Authentic Texts: A Few Ideas to Get You Started

- Picture Books
- Graphic Novels and Comic Strips
- Poetry
- Song Lyrics
- Reader's Theater Scripts
- Online Periodicals for Children
- Magazines for Children

- Cookbooks
- How to Guides
- Wordless Books
- Travel Brochures
- Atlas, Almanac, and Encyclopedia
- Letters, Notes, Emails, and Texts
- Biographies and Autobiographies
- Signs and Labels
- Junior Novels
- Award winners of all kinds – Informational and Narrative