

Tell Me Series Overview



The Tell Me Series courses focus on a variety of nonfiction text types. Each unit comprises texts of only one text type so students can explore exemplars and better understand how each one is structured and conveys information. Texts are organized according to type, and signal and transition words are used where appropriate. The texts include relevant images, diagrams, illustrations, and other graphic elements.

Students explore a variety of academic content areas, including science, social studies, the arts, and health concepts through their online readings, [writing prompts](#), lesson extensions, and lesson activities.

Tell Me About it!

Tell Me More!

Tell Me Something!

Tell Me Everything!

Text Type

*Not all text types appear in all courses.

Explanation

Retell it

Recount texts retell an experience or an event that happened in the past. The focus comprehension skills are understanding chronology and cause and effect. Language Arts genres include short biographies, historical narratives, letters, journal entries, and personal narratives.

Please Explain

Explanation texts describe how something works and/or why something happens. The focus comprehension skill is understanding cause and effect.

Step by Step

Procedural texts inform the reader of how to successfully complete a specific task by following set instructions. The focus comprehension skill is understanding sequencing.

Imagine it

These texts evoke the senses and focus on descriptive narratives of places, people, objects, or events. The focus comprehension skills are identifying descriptive words and details. Academic topics include Earth, Life, and Physical Sciences.

This and That

Compare and contrast texts explore the similarities and differences between two things. The focus skill is understanding compare and contrast.

This Leads to That

Cause and effect texts reveal how one event or catalyst causes another to occur. These texts include graphic organizers that point out at least one of the causes and effects addressed in the lesson text.

Think and React

Text responses share the writer's reaction or response to something they have read, viewed, or heard. The focus skill is developing opinions with reasons.

Headlines and Happenings

News-style articles demonstrate how writers convey information about current events or new topics.

Uncovering the Details

Expository texts educate readers by investigating facts, data, and other evidence on a given topic. The focus skill is learning how various types of factual evidence can be used to understand a new subject or discovery.

For Your Information

This informative text type provides general information about a specific topic. These texts address a variety of comprehension skills, depending on the topic.

Tell Me About It! 64 Lessons

Retell It	Please Explain	Step by Step	Imagine it!	This and That	Think and React	For Your Information
Jane Goodall: Learning about Animals by Living among Them	Why Are There So Many Rules?!	How to Make a Terrarium Mini-Garden	Welcome to Mario's Pizzeria	Let's Talk about Lions and Tigers	The Hare and the Tortoise	Sitting Bull and the Battle of Little Big Horn
Ellis Island: A Letter from Antonio	Why Do Leaves Change Color?	How to Make S'mores with a Solar Oven	Meet the Red Panda	Mammals and Reptiles: How Do They Match Up?	Poems about Pancakes and the Wind!	Where Does My Food Come From?
Ruby Bridges: Making History One Step at a Time	Why Do Mosquitoes Bite?	How to Make a Map	Biking across the Golden Gate Bridge	Colonial Life vs. Life Today: What a Difference 400 Years Make	Old Tech on Display: My Day at the History Museum	What Happens When We Eat?
Notes from the Oregon Trail	How Does My Nose Work?	Follow That Bird!	Peacocks Make Quite a Fashion Statement!	Lakes and Oceans: Earth's Water Wonderlands	Sally's Ride: NASA Launches the First American Woman into Space	Amazing Fish
Stepping into Business with Levi Strauss	How Do We Get Rain, Snow, and Hail?	Cooking 101 and How to Make Chicken Alfredo with a Twist	Touring the Grand Canyon	Bees and Butterflies: The Flying Gardeners of Nature	Fame's Rise to Fame at the Dog Show	Be Resourceful: Use Natural Resources Wisely
This Day in History: Presenting Mount Rushmore	How Are Laws Made?	Take Note of Nature	Celebrating with Fireworks	Guitars and Violins String Us Along	My Favorite Season	All about Bears
Sacagawea: Helping the Lewis and Clark Expedition	Why Do Cats Purr?	Go Fish: How to Play	Look but Don't Touch: Poison Frogs	Slate and Marble: Two Kinds of Rocks	Orcas Up Close	Surf's Up: The Basics of Surfing
Watching the Moon Landing	How Do Fortunes Get inside Fortune Cookies?	How to Care for a Pet Dog	Trudy's Ice Cream Parlor	The Powhatan and the Pueblo: Two Groups of American Indians	The Meaning of True Friendship	Unfolding the Art of Origami
Eddie Takes the Big Leap	How Does Water Reshape the Surface of the Earth?	Schedules Help Us Get Things Done	Let's Meet the Statue of Liberty	Grilled vs. Fried: How You Cook Food Matters	Two Paintings of Barefoot Boys	Living as a Deaf Person in a World of Sounds
		Student Survey: How to Fill Out a Form				

Tell Me More! 64 Lessons

Retell It	Please Explain	Step by Step	Imagine it!	This and That	Headlines and Happenings	For Your Information
Reaching Out: The Life of Helen Keller	How Do Grasshoppers Grow?	How to Make Your Own Crayons	The First Day of the Iditarod	Fish and Amphibians—What's the Difference?	Nature's Superheroes: Rainforest Rescue!	Welcome to the Desert!
John Parker's Mission: Rescuing Others	What Are Traits, and How Do They Work?	How to Make Veggie Sushi Rolls	A Quiet Night Camping in the Country	Tropical and Temperate Climate Zones: Places that Get Plenty of Rain	What's That Noise? It's Critters Called Cicadas!	A Fierce Fighter: The Powerful Manis Shrimp
Landing on the Hudson	How Do Venus Flytraps Catch Bugs—and Why?	What's the Weather Going to Be Like Today?	Let's Explore Mammoth Cave in Kentucky!	Trees are Unbe-leaf-able!	Why Don't Some Trees Know It's Spring?	Junko Tabei vs. Mount Everest
An American Hero: Jackie Robinson	What Are Hurricanes and Tornadoes?	Let's Start a Bullet Journal!	Welcome to the Next Stop Candy Shop!	Where Do You Live?	Clever Crows!	Lady Liberty: A Gift from France
Taxes and Tea: The Road to Independence	How Does Our Solar System Work?	How Is Paper Money Made?	Riding the Rapids!	What's That in the Sky? An Asteroid, Comet, or Meteor?	Oh, It's On! Meet the Youngest BattleBots Team Captain	Masters of Disguise: These Animals are Good at Hiding!
Audubon's Great Backyard Bird Count	How Do Courts Work, and Why Do We Need Them?	How to Grow an Indoor Herb Garden	Please Welcome to the Stage the Amazing Satin Bowerbird!	Fruit or Vegetable: What Did I Just Eat?	Ice Volcanoes Create a Weird World in Winter Weather	High Flyers: The Navy's Blue Angels
Life on the International Space Station	How Do Kangaroo Rats Survive in the Desert?	Don't Get Lost! Learn How to Read a Map	Let's Go Apple Picking!	Butterflies and Moths: Different as Night and Day?	What Does an Elephant's Nose Know? More Than You May Think	Great Geysers!
Visit to the Zoo	What Is Soil, and Where Does It Come From?	Let's Play Capture the Flag!	Face-to-Face with Dinosaurs	Extreme Environments: Life in Some of the Hottest and Coldest Towns	Katydid Concert	Here Comes the Pony Parade!
The First Spring: Setting Up a New Colony	Finding a Good Home	Let's Make a Paper-Mache Pumpkin!	Millions of Migrating Monarchs	How Landslides and Volcanic Eruptions Change Our Earth	Weird Facts About Frogs and Toads	The Culper Ring: George Washington's Helpful Spies

Tell Me Everything! 64 Lessons

Retell It	Please Explain	Step by Step	Imagine it!	This Leads to That	Uncovering the Details	For Your Information
A Head for Invention and Fun	The Science Behind Sweet Treats	Koru-Inspired Art	A Historic Address	Too Hot On Our Planet	Could we Clone a Mammoth?	A Kaleidoscope of Food
A Day in the Life of Teresa, A Young Migrant Worker	Why and How Crickets Chirp	How to Make a Cartesian Diver	Animals of the Great Barrier Reef	The Case of Disappearing Words	Swallowed by the Jungle	Welcome to Brazil
My Dive to the Titanic	Why Dandelions Are Dandy	All About Auroras	The Art of a Sushi Chef	In Search of Miracles	That's Disgusting!	A look at Nostradamus
A Muse to Remember	Super Spinners	How to Make Your Own Snow Globe	Alaskan Eats and Treats	Commotion in the Ocean	From Wild to Mild	Breathe Easier
For the Public to Enjoy	How Archaeologists Explore the Past	How to Make a Stained Glass Earth	Pigs and Pick Pockets	Seeing It Coming	Ocean Navigation Polynesian Style	All About Recycling
A System of Dots: How a Teen Came Up with a New Way to Read	How Satellites Work	Friendship Bracelets	Life in a Lenape Longhouse	Barnstormers and Daredevils	There is a Balloon in my Belly	The Richest Man Who Ever Lived
Not All Islands are Tropical	Why Do Droughts Happen?	Better Butter	Life in the Rainforest	How Volcanoes Rock Our World	Can Cats Predict Earthquakes?	A River of Ice
The Measure of a Man	Webbed Wonders	Galaxy Slime	Village Voices	Saving the Tigers	The Seahorse	Beware of the Bagpipes
Elizabeth Cady Stanton: Taking a Stand for Women	Speedy Racers	Bird Feeders from the Kitchen	Welcome to Cat Island	The Magical Transformation of Bread	The Food Stylists' Art	Songkran