

Reading for Science in Story Books

As parents, we teach our children Science from an early age in the stories we share with them orally and in books. Have you ever thought about yourself as a Science teacher?

Picture story books have information in their words and images. Some are written to teach Science. So how would we know if a story is based on good science facts? Below is a list of things that I would expect a good Science based story to contain and then it is a table.

1 about the author

Biographical information may make you feel that you can rely more on the information presented. It could be formal educational qualifications, experience, or acknowledgement of the source of the information on which a story is based.

2 within the book

A book structure that helps you find facts and review them may make you feel that you can rely more on the information presented. It could be a glossary, a list of further reading or activities, some review questions, a bibliography and/or an index.

Table to Assess Science Basis for a Book.

Book Title name		
Science topic		
Circle 'yes' or 'no' to show if the book has each the following for a good Science book. The more 'yes' answers, the better the Science basis of the book.		
Is it a non-fiction Science resource? Or, if no.. Is it a Science based story?	Yes	No
If YES, does the book have the following :		
Author says source of his knowledge or has relevant education or experience	Yes	No
Glossary key words with their meanings	Yes	No
Further Reading books/websites to learn more	Yes	No
Review Questions (and answers) check what you now know	Yes	No
Bibliography names of references used	Yes	No
Index key words listed alphabetically to help you find the page they are on.	Yes	No
Total yes (max of 7)		

You might notice that if a story book had all these things it would be very similar to a text book, except in that it would be a story - not a text!

