

non-fiction checklist for young readers

We all want to find texts that are the best 'fit' for our young readers. This checklist by Kathy E. Stephens hits on every important component of a non-fiction text that will most likely work for your student. I love it!

COVER:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Is the cover attractive? Colorful but not too busy?• Is the title short enough to entice interest?• Are the words understandable and in large enough print?
CONTENT/ TOPIC:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Does the writer share enough intriguing facts?• Is the topic interesting to young readers?• Is the content current and age-appropriate?• Is the content accurate and reliable?
ILLUSTRATIONS:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Are the illustrations large, clear, and bright but not overly crowded or busy?• Do the photographs invite readers to explore the text?• Do the illustrations explain and enhance the content?• Are the labels and captions simple yet sufficient?
ORGANIZATION:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• When appropriate, does the book contain a table of contents, index, and glossary?• Are clearly divided sections, headings, and subheadings provided?
FONT SIZE AND TYPE:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Do the spacing and placement of words make passages easy to read?• Can a young reader follow along the page easily?

From Kathy E. Stephens, *A Quick Guide to Selecting Great Informational Books for Young Children*. The Reading Teacher March 2008.

