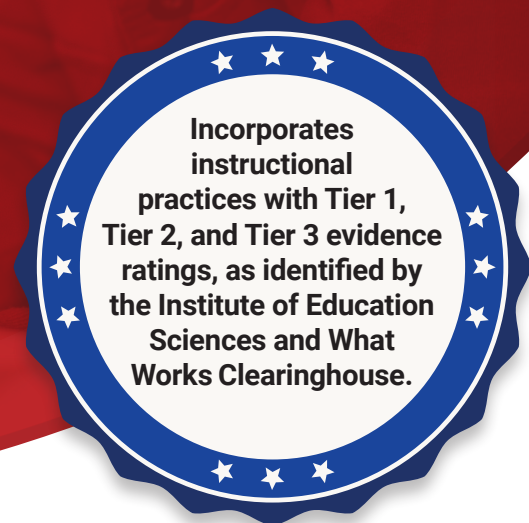
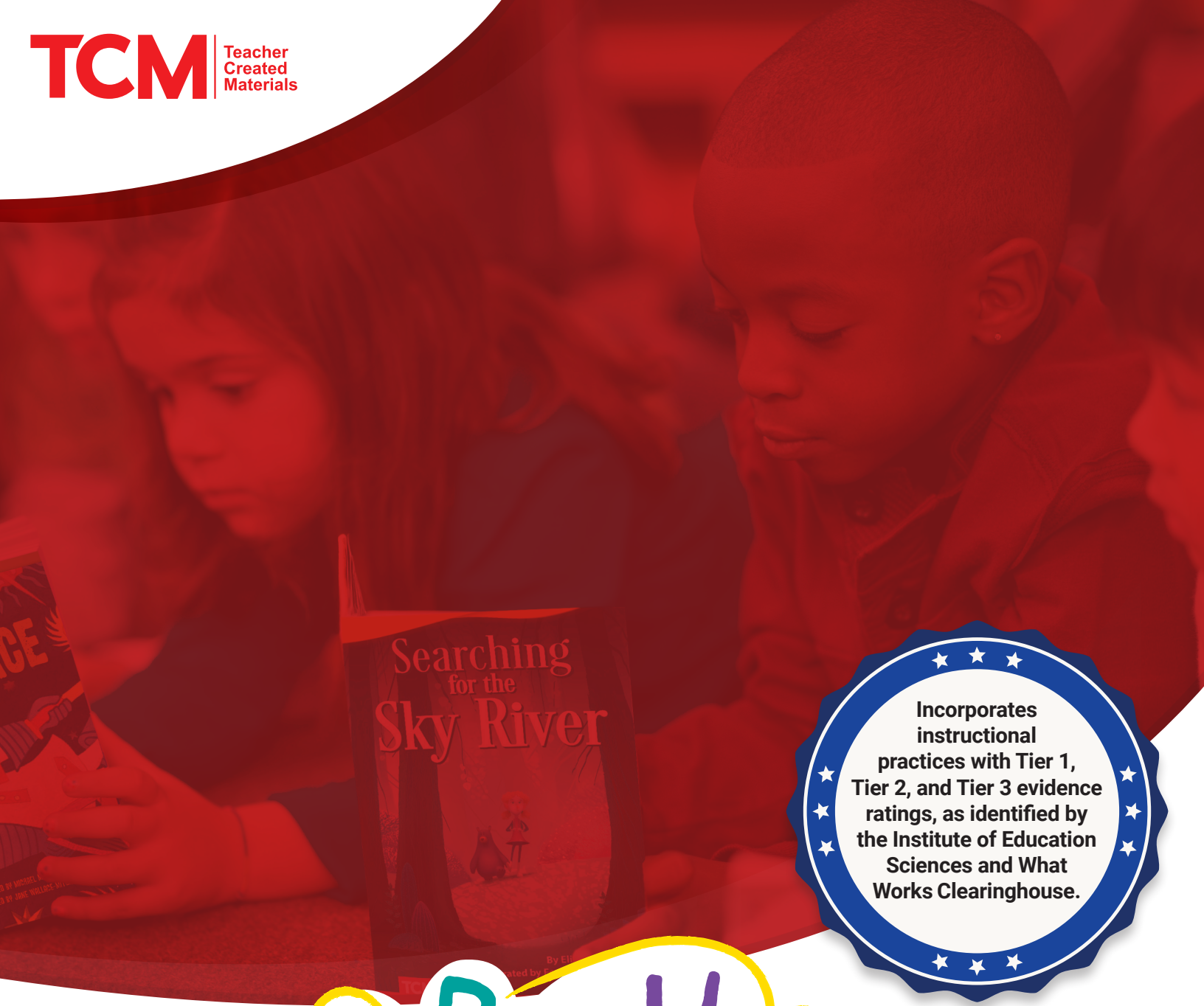




Book ADVENTURES

Classroom Library

High-Interest Books and Learning Materials to
Encourage Reading and Sustain Motivation

Introduction

Book Adventures: Grades PK–6 Classroom Libraries are carefully curated collections of high-quality fiction and nonfiction books paired with thoughtfully designed activities that ignite curiosity and deepen engagement.

All components are designed to make teaching more effective and learning more fun by providing teachers with practical ideas and flexible strategies to support whole-class activities, small-group discussions, and independent exploration. The included activities foster critical-thinking skills and create meaningful opportunities for students to connect with what they read in the classroom and beyond.

Whether exploring captivating informational texts or journeying through imaginative narratives, every student will find books that grab their interest and expand their understanding. The primary goal of the books and components in *Book Adventures* is to engage and empower students in their reading journeys. Engaged readers are more likely to carry their enthusiasm for reading beyond the classroom, further building skills that will support success in all areas of life.

Each level of *Book Adventures* includes:

- 75 classroom library books (fiction and nonfiction)
- 1 *Teacher's Travel Guide*
- 30 copies of an interactive bookmark
- 2 posters
- 15 sheets of genre passport stickers
- 6 sheets of star stickers
- 30 copies of *My Book Adventures Passports*



Guiding Principles

The foundation of *Book Adventures: Grades PK–6 Classroom Libraries* is the belief that all students can become enthusiastic, lifelong readers when given the right environment and materials. Research shows that, ultimately, the importance of reading cannot be overstated:

There is no denying the profound impact of childhood literacy, not only on individuals, but on families, communities, and societies. Research shows the power of reading is unequivocal: it increases educational engagement, enhances equity in communities that need it, inspires critical thinking and nuanced ideas, positively impacts future economic success, and imbues young people with empathy and intelligence—qualities that are more and more important each day. (Scholastic Research & Validation 2023, 1)

The book genres and activities included in *Book Adventures* are guided by literacy standards that emphasize comprehension, text analysis, and a range of reading experiences. Each classroom library collection balances high-quality fiction and nonfiction, exposing students to multiple text structures, purposes, and perspectives. Activities are intentionally aligned to standards, helping students meet grade-level expectations while encouraging them to think critically and make personal connections with texts. Through the fiction and nonfiction books, students will encounter stories and ideas that expand their understanding of the world. *Book Adventures* supports educators in meeting instructional goals while keeping student engagement at the heart of literacy learning.



Research to Practice

The books in *Book Adventures* span the content areas, and every classroom library has a varied collection of high-interest books. Also, the activities provided in the *Teacher's Travel Guides* give teachers the opportunities to have students work on their writing and critical-thinking skills.



Integrate oral and written English language instruction into content-area teaching.

The colorful and vivid components—including activities in the *Teacher's Travel Guides*, posters, bookmarks, passport booklets, and sticker sets—are designed to spark a genuine love of reading in today's fast-paced, digital world. These components, combined with thoughtfully curated books, motivate students to actively participate in their reading journeys both inside and outside the classroom.

Research underscores the importance of sustained engagement, noting that “what benefits children who struggle with learning to read the most is a steady diet of high-quality reading lessons, lessons in which they have texts they can read with an appropriate level of accuracy and in which they are also engaged in the sort of work we expect our better readers to do” (Allington 2013, 527). *Book Adventures* meets this need by offering a flexible approach to reading alongside a vast collection of grade-appropriate fiction and nonfiction books, serving as the perfect supplement to any literacy instruction approach. Each *Teacher’s Travel Guide* offers practical tips and creative strategies for incorporating whole-class activities, small-group discussions, and independent reading challenges. The flexibility of *Book Adventures* ensures that teachers can seamlessly integrate the product into their existing routines and curriculums while fostering critical-thinking skills and deepening comprehension.



Establish an engaging and motivating context in which to teach reading comprehension.



Research to Practice

Book Adventures makes reading engaging for students by providing a diverse array of books for use with additional components that motivate students to enjoy reading. As students read books throughout the year, they will use their *My Book Adventures Passports* to record what they’ve read. Students will fill in passport pages that ask them to rate the books, “stamp” their pages with genre passport stickers, and complete writing or drawing activities that encourage them to think more deeply about the books. Some activities in the *Teacher’s Travel Guides* are adventure themed, such as the *Reading Road Map* activity that has students write the book titles they’ve read on the correct genre stretch of “road,” as well as the grade-level appropriate *Book Scavenger Hunts*. Additionally, the bookmarks included with each classroom library are not just placeholders—they are portable activities that students can use to turn every reading session into an interactive journey.



The Current State of Content-Area Reading and Writing

Reading is a foundational skill that underpins success across all academic subjects. Students who develop strong reading abilities early are better equipped to comprehend complex texts, analyze information critically, and express ideas effectively in writing. Researcher Tami Katzir analyzes the importance of reading with remarkable insight:

Reading books is a door to the world of imagination, other realms, and endless possibilities of identifying with literary characters, working through challenges in one's personal life, and developing dreams of a wonderful future. Educators have the ability to grant students the gift of reading—not reading as a homework assignment but rather reading that has a magical effect and generates strong feelings, sometimes even stronger than those facilitated in everyday life. Developing the identity of a reading self in young people—a person who takes time to learn about the environment, world, and one's self—will equip them with a strong foundation for building a caring society. (Katzir 2022, 302)

This vision underscores the transformative potential of reading—not just as an academic skill but also as a doorway to empathy, creativity, and lifelong learning. By helping to cultivate a love of reading, educators empower students to see themselves in new ways and to connect deeply with the stories of others. Plus, when students discover the joy and meaning in reading, they are more likely to become thoughtful, engaged citizens who appreciate different perspectives.

However, despite the clear importance of reading, recent research data highlights a serious challenge: “The 2024 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) (NCES, 2025) results reveal a troubling trend: reading scores for the lowest-performing students have plummeted to historic lows” (Hiebert 2025). Furthermore, Scholastic Research & Validation also found evidence of declining scores: “The percentage of students in the United States who achieve baseline literacy standards has decreased by approximately 14% since 1992” (2023, 2). This decline in reading scores has significant implications for students’ future academic performances, career readiness, and civic engagement. Low reading proficiency can limit students’ ability to access grade-level content in all content areas, widening achievement gaps and reducing opportunities. The urgency is clear: Without improved access to high-quality reading experiences, many students risk falling behind in both literacy and overall academic achievement.

Book Adventures: Grades PK–6 Classroom Libraries meets this pressing need by ensuring that students have plentiful access to engaging, high-quality books during the school day. Each classroom library contains 75 carefully selected books spanning a variety of genres, from rich informational texts to imaginative narratives. The core focus of *Book Adventures* is on engaging students in reading. Research shows that students who struggle with reading are often assigned less reading and do more worksheets than their peers who do not struggle (Allington 2013). That’s why the activities in *Book Adventures* are supplemental and flexible; teachers have the option to use them and the corresponding activity sheets if they wish, but the focus remains on students interacting with the books.



Research to Practice

The flexible framework of *Book Adventures* allows for the books and the designated activities to be used daily in the classroom alongside other curriculum. With 75 books included in the collection, students will have enough options to pick a new book to read every week of the school year and still have plenty of new books left over.

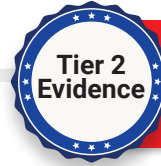


Ensure that each student reads connected text every day to support reading accuracy, fluency, and comprehension.

Writing comes into play in *Book Adventures* as well through the activities and components provided. Many writing activities in the *Teacher’s Travel Guides* are collaborative, allowing students to discuss and finalize their ideas with their peers. Research shows that “when writing is shared and feedback is collaborative, students are placed in both the reader and the writer roles...increasing students’ abilities to evaluate and provide feedback on their own writing and their peers positively impacts writing quality and increases the number of writing elements used within student-written compositions” (Lewis 2024, 765). The “Enjoy the Journey” activities in the *Teacher’s Travel Guides* state when students should work with peers to develop writing projects, and the variety of activities provided ensures that students stay engaged with the material they are working on. Each level of *Book Adventures* has a mix of writing and drawing activities with an emphasis on writing in different formats, including graphic organizers, vocabulary cards, and summaries.



The importance of the connection between reading and writing, and how this connection improves both skill sets, has been supported through research by Sarah Whyte (1985). *Book Adventures* aims to engage students in both reading and writing by providing a set of classroom library books paired with flexible, standards-aligned activities that deepen comprehension and build critical-thinking skills.



Teach students to use the writing process for a variety of purposes.



Research to Practice

The activities in *Book Adventures* have students write across genres. Students write their opinions on the books they read in their passport booklets, explain plot elements of the books, brainstorm questions about books they read, and write in creative formats (such as postcards, posters, and comic strips). At each grade level, students write to express information, opinions, and creative ideas. The International Literacy Association clearly states the importance of student writing, and *Book Adventures* meets this need: “As students write, they learn by doing. They try out different forms of writing, apply different strategies and approaches for producing text, and gain fluency with basic writing skills such as handwriting, spelling, and sentence construction” (2020, 3).

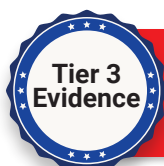


Engaging Students in Reading at School

Researchers agree that students need to read extensively to improve their abilities to read (Kempe, Eriksson-Gustavsson, and Samuelsson 2011; Stanovich 1986). The volume of reading students engage in directly influences their vocabulary growth, comprehension skills, and overall academic success. However, for extensive reading to occur, students must first be motivated to pick up a book—and to keep reading it. Engagement is not simply about offering access to texts; it's about fostering a sense of curiosity, enjoyment, and personal connection that turns reading into a meaningful and self-driven habit.

As Katzir (2022) notes, “Despite the growing evidence from affective neuroscience and behavior research, most reading programs tend to focus on technical skills associated with reading, with less of an emphasis on enhancing interest, excitement, and dealing with anxiety and boredom that may arise in students” (304). This insight highlights a critical gap in many literacy programs: the need to nurture the emotional and motivational aspects of reading alongside technical skill development.

Book Adventures meets this need by enhancing students’ interest and engagement through vibrant, interactive components including posters, bookmarks, passport booklets, and stickers. *Book Adventures* is positioned as a direct response to the growing gap in reading proficiency caused by reduced student engagement with authentic, self-directed texts. With the adoption of many core reading programs that lack a focus on independent reading, this resource serves as an ideal supplement to classroom instruction. The activities in the *Teacher’s Travel Guides* create multiple opportunities for teachers to connect with their students, for students to connect with peers about the books they read, and for all readers to think deeply about texts they choose independently, building both skill and enthusiasm for reading.



Provide opportunities for extended discussion of text meaning and interpretation.



Schedule regular peer-assisted learning opportunities.



Research to Practice

There are multiple opportunities for students to have partner, small-group, and whole-class discussions about books thanks to the activities included in the *Teacher’s Travel Guides*. For example, grades 1-6 students have the option to participate in a monthly rotating book club activity, and PK-K students have the option to discuss what they think might happen in a book or ask questions. Teachers can select from a variety of activities to promote partner or small-group learning within a flexible framework.

Engaging Students in Reading at Home

While classroom instruction plays a central role in developing strong literacy skills, the reading students do outside of school is equally vital to their growth. In her book *Being Your Child's Most Important Teacher*, Rebecca Palacios notes that breaks from school can affect students' learning and that, over time, "these learning losses add up, and the academic achievement gap widens" (2022, 172). Therefore, it is vital that students continue to read at home to avoid falling behind in their reading progress.

Time spent reading at home reinforces the skills learned during the school day, builds reading stamina, and fosters the habits of independent reading that are essential for lifelong learning. Reading at home also allows students to explore personal interests and share reading experiences with family members, creating positive associations with books that extend beyond academic requirements.

Book Adventures supports this important home-school connection by providing tools that encourage reading beyond the academic year. Each *Teacher's Travel Guide* includes a Family Letter that can be sent home to students' families. This letter outlines practical strategies for incorporating reading into daily routines, offering parents and caregivers concrete ideas for fostering a love of reading at home. Moreover, the "Flying Solo: Reading Beyond the Classroom" sections in the *Teacher's Travel Guides* offer grade-appropriate tips for teachers to encourage students to read at home. By engaging families as partners, *Book Adventures* extends literacy learning into students' home environments, where consistent practice can have a lasting impact.

Research confirms the value of sustained reading outside of the classroom: "Even without summer reading lessons, just reading during the summer months fostered reading growth!" (Allington 2013, 526). By encouraging reading in multiple contexts—whether during the school year or over long breaks—*Book Adventures* ensures that students' literacy development continues year-round, helping them build both competence and confidence as readers.



High-Interest Books

At the heart of every *Book Adventures Classroom Library* is a carefully curated selection of 75 books. Of these books, 60 titles come from Teacher Created Materials, 10 titles come from the Free Spirit Publishing brand, and 5 are high-quality trade books. This blend offers a wide range of voices, genres, and perspectives, ensuring that students encounter distinct and engaging texts that both broaden their understanding and spark curiosity.

The books in each classroom library are intentionally leveled to support a full range of reading abilities. Across every classroom library, there are books for students reading below, on, and above grade level, ensuring that every child can access texts that challenge them appropriately while building confidence. Research shows that reading challenging material helps students build robust reading skills (Shanahan, Fisher, and Frey 2012). This intentional range allows teachers to differentiate instruction effectively and provide all students with the opportunity to succeed and improve their literacy skills, regardless of their starting points on their reading journeys.

For organizational and engagement purposes, the books in each classroom library are grouped into nine themes, chosen to align with key content areas while also capturing students' imaginations. These themes serve as gateways to reading experiences that connect directly with science, social studies, the arts, and more. Each theme is accompanied by a short introductory video designed to ignite interest and build anticipation for the books students will read within that theme. Teachers have access to the theme videos on the last page of the *Teacher's Travel Guides*, and students have access to the videos on pages 2–3 of their *My Book Adventures Passports*.

PK–2 Themes

Adventure Stories: Embark on exciting journeys filled with brave characters and fun-filled places that awaken imagination and curiosity.

American Symbols: Discover the important symbols of our country, including landmarks, songs, and documents that help us understand what makes our country special.

Blast Off: Into Space: Zoom into space to learn about the moon, the sun, planets, and everything that makes the universe so amazing.

Fun and Games: Play along with books about toys, food, and creative activities to learn about how everyday things can inspire fun.

Happy, Healthy Me: Explore ways to stay safe and happy through healthy choices, managing feelings, and caring for ourselves.



Scan this QR code or visit this link to access all the theme videos.

tcmpub.digital/ba2_videos

Plants, Animals, and Habitats: Take a closer look at the living things all around us and see how plants and animals grow, live, and change.

School and Community: Learn about the places we go, the people who help us, and how we all work together at school and in our community.

Traditional Tales: Step into nursery rhymes, fairy tales, folktales, and fables filled with clever characters, magical moments, and lessons to remember.

Weather Wonders: Discover how the sky transforms with sun, rain, snow, and wind, and learn how weather shapes our daily lives.

3–6 Themes

Animal Mania: Discover the wonders of the animal kingdom, from the tiniest insects to the mightiest mammals, as these books reveal fascinating facts and incredible behaviors that bring the animal world to life.

Art All Around Us: Explore the different places that art and creativity can be found in the world, shaping our environments and inspiring us to deepen our imaginations.

Ecosystem Exploration: Uncover the secrets of ecosystems around the world, learning how living things interact with their environments and why every part of nature matters.

Heroes and Helpers: Celebrate the bravery, kindness, and selflessness of everyday heroes who make a difference in the world through their actions, choices, and words.

How Does It Work?: Peek behind the scenes to uncover how everyday things—objects, places, jobs, and more—work, revealing the hidden processes that shape the world around us.

Into the Universe: Venture into the universe and read all about space! Examine planets, stars, space technology, the lives of astronauts, and more as you follow discoveries made about the cosmos.

Lead the Way: Be inspired by reading about leaders (and even kids like you!) who create change, stand up for what’s right, and show that anyone can make a difference through courage and conviction.

Our Nation: Examine the history and events that have shaped the United States, highlighting the people and ideals that define our country.

Travel the World: Journey across countries and cultures to experience the richness of cultural traditions and lifestyles that make our world so diverse and unique.



Scan this QR code or visit this link
to access all the theme videos.

tcmpub.digital/ba3_videos

Fiction

The fiction books in each *Book Adventures: Classroom Library* represent a range of genres, from realistic fiction and historical narratives to fantasy, mystery, and adventure stories. Across grade levels, these selections provide students with opportunities to explore different worlds, perspectives, and storytelling styles, fostering both imagination and empathy. Fiction reading is not only enjoyable—it plays a vital role in students’ social and emotional growth. In a study reported in 2018 in the *Journal of Research in Reading*, the authors found that reading literature “can be an effective, school-based medium for social-emotional learning and development among young adolescents” (Tijms, Stoop, and Polleck 2018, 540).

To deepen engagement with fiction, *Book Adventures* pairs reading with activities that extend and enrich the reading experience. The included bookmarks and *Teacher’s Travel Guides* provide prompts for identifying plot elements, writing personal opinions about the stories, and engaging in creative follow-up activities, such as designing alternate endings or reimagining scenes as comics. These activities encourage students to think critically, express themselves creatively, and connect more deeply with the books—transforming fiction reading into an active, reflective, and rewarding process.

Nonfiction

The nonfiction books in each *Book Adventures: Classroom Library* cover a broad spectrum of topics, from science, history, and geography to biographies, cultural studies, and current issues. The chosen titles align with content-area learning while also sparking curiosity through high-interest topics. Nonfiction reading supports students in developing essential skills for understanding and analyzing informational text—skills that are critical for academic success in all subject areas. As noted by researchers, “Reading requirements at each grade level are expanding to include nonfiction selections” (Albee et al. 2019, 293), making it more important than ever for students to engage regularly with informational texts.

To maximize engagement with nonfiction, *Book Adventures* integrates targeted activities through the *Teacher’s Travel Guides*. These activities encourage students to identify main ideas and key details, locate and interpret text features, and even participate in “book scavenger hunts” that guide them in finding text features and key elements of texts, such as main ideas. By approaching nonfiction as an interactive and exploratory experience, students not only strengthen their comprehension but also build the analytical skills necessary to navigate complex texts with confidence.

Conclusion

Book Adventures: Grades PK–6 Classroom Libraries bring together high-quality, diverse books and thoughtfully designed components to create an engaging, flexible, and standards-aligned literacy resource. Each library provides students with abundant opportunities to explore a wide range of genres and topics, supported by activities that foster critical thinking, comprehension, and meaningful connections with texts. From captivating fiction books and enriching nonfiction books to interactive components like the *Teacher's Travel Guides*, bookmarks, and passport booklets, *Book Adventures* is designed to empower students in their reading journeys—both in school and at home. By combining access to exceptional literature and informational texts with strategies that spark curiosity and sustain motivation, *Book Adventures* equips educators with the tools they need to nurture confident and enthusiastic readers.



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