



Science of Reading

Putting Research into Action

How Can I Use Text Sets to Support Knowledge Building?

Use the checklist below to support you in applying what you learned about how text sets build students' knowledge and support literacy development.

To build text sets that support knowledge building, I will:

- Understand that text sets are high-quality, increasingly challenging, connected texts that support students in building vocabulary, abstract ideas, and reading comprehension
- Determine the purpose* for using a text set, taking into consideration students' needs and grade level
 - Do I want to build content knowledge? (**Cognitive Text Sets**)
 - Do I want to build disciplinary knowledge? (**Disciplinary Text Sets**)
 - Do I want to build critical thinking? (**Critical Text Sets**)
- Choose the appropriate framework to build a text set that supports my purpose
 - Cognitive Text Set.** Build content knowledge by including:
 - Hook Texts—motivating, engaging texts that demonstrate relevance of content area
 - Visual Texts—provides photos, picture books, video clips, and infographics to support learning
 - Information Texts—provides some of the essential knowledge students will need in order to access the more complex target text
 - Target Texts—challenging text with new vocabulary and abstract ideas
 - Disciplinary Text Set.** Build knowledge of the discipline by including:
 - Gateway activities—brief scenarios, surveys, or engaging questions
 - Cultural modeling—connections to students' lives/social worlds
 - Heuristics and scaffolds—applying similar ideas across texts
 - Background knowledge activities—connections to make learning relatable
 - Critical Text Sets.** Build multifaceted connections across texts to support social change by including:
 - A Fulcrum Text—similar to a Target Text that focuses on a concept
 - Context/Counterstory Text—aim to challenge dominant ideology
- Examine my current curriculum to ensure:
 - All voices and perspectives are represented
 - Texts are appropriate and will enhance students' knowledge
 - The chosen texts build on students' strengths

**In most cases, especially when working with primary students, the main purpose for using a text set will be to build content knowledge. In some cases, such as when working with secondary students or in supplementary scenarios, the main purpose might instead be building disciplinary knowledge or critical thinking.*