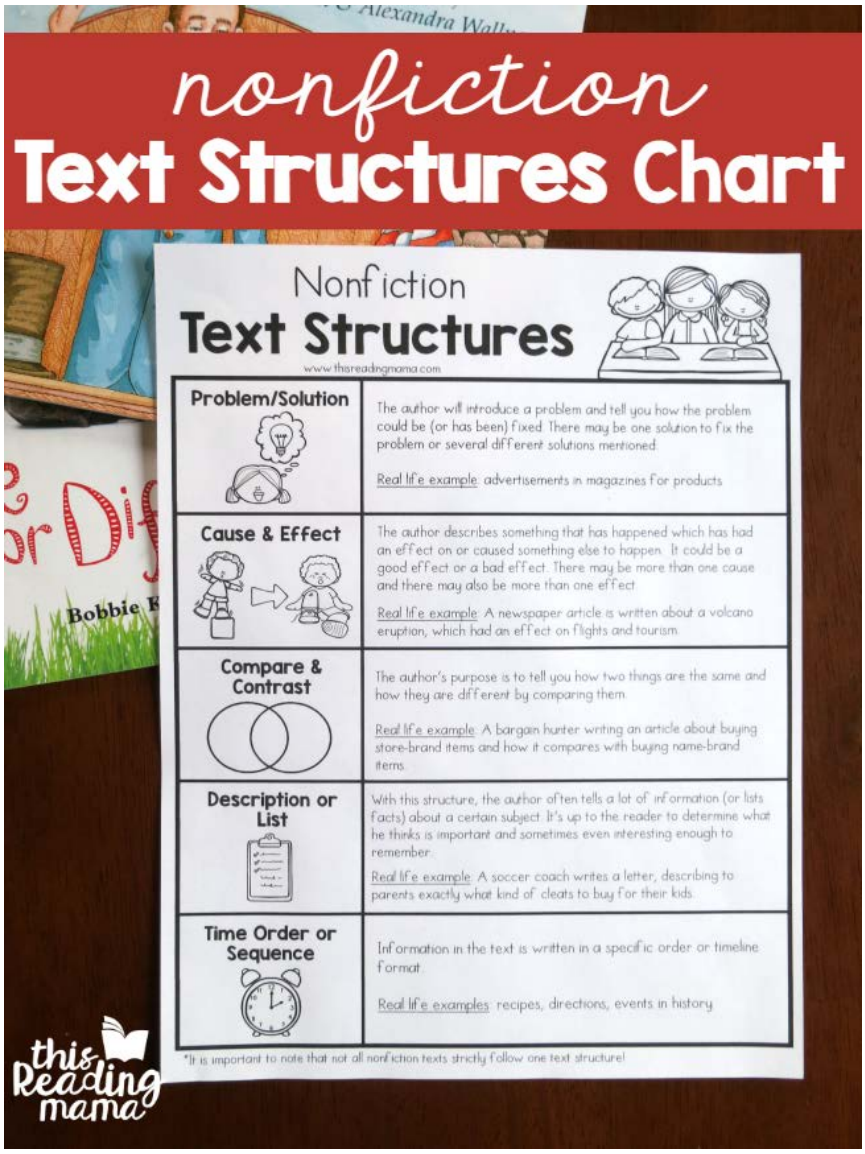
nonfiction Text Structures Chart



What a great visual for teaching nonfiction text structures!
Hop over to THIS READING MAMA to see more recommendations on teaching and using it with readers.

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Nonfiction
Text Structures

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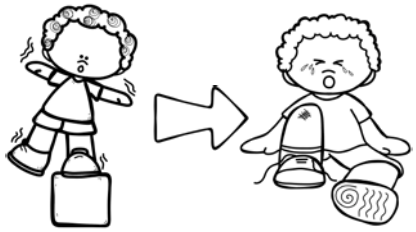
Problem/Solution

The author will introduce a problem and tell you how the problem could be (or has been) fixed. There may be one solution to fix the problem or several different solutions mentioned.

Real life example: advertisements in magazines for products

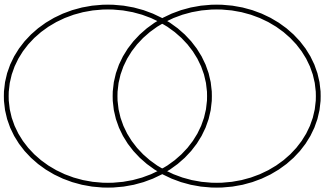
Cause & Effect



The author describes something that has happened which has had an effect on or caused something else to happen. It could be a good effect or a bad effect. There may be more than one cause and there may also be more than one effect.

Real life example: A newspaper article is written about a volcano eruption, which had an effect on flights and tourism.

Compare & Contrast



The author's purpose is to tell you how two things are the same and how they are different by comparing them.

Real life example: A bargain hunter writing an article about buying store-brand items and how it compares with buying name-brand items.

Description or List

With this structure, the author often tells a lot of information (or lists facts) about a certain subject. It's up to the reader to determine what he thinks is important and sometimes even interesting enough to remember.

Real life example: A soccer coach writes a letter, describing to parents exactly what kind of cleats to buy for their kids.

Time Order or Sequence

Information in the text is written in a specific order or timeline format.

Real life examples: recipes, directions, events in history

*It is important to note that not all nonfiction texts strictly follow one text structure!

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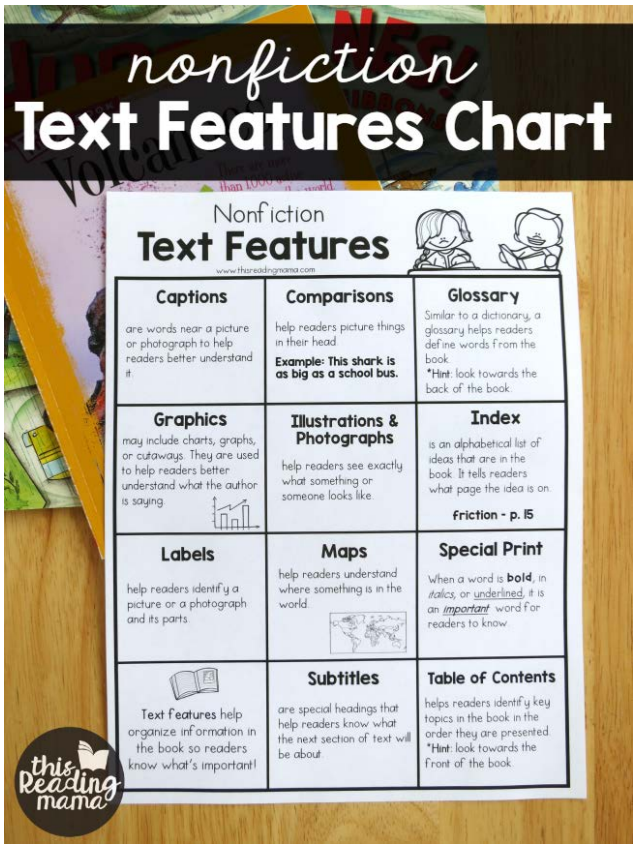

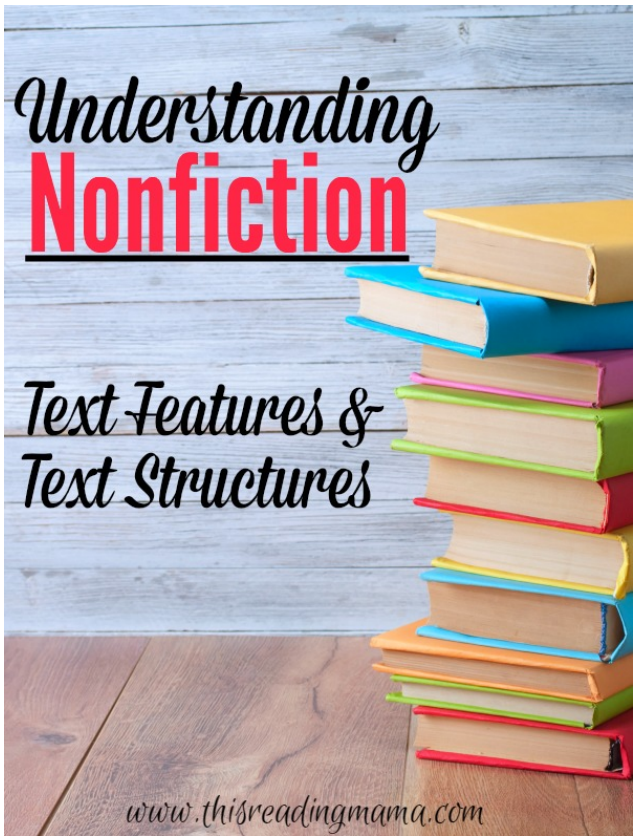

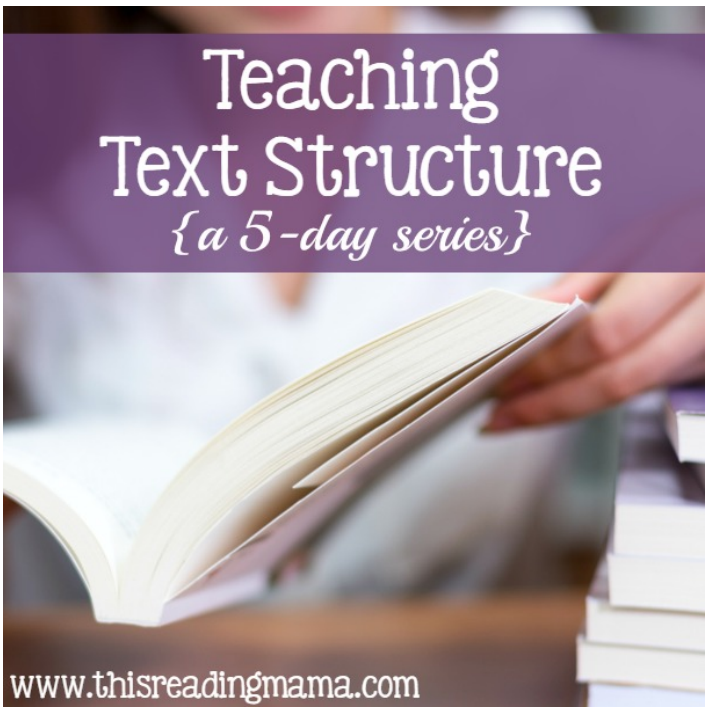

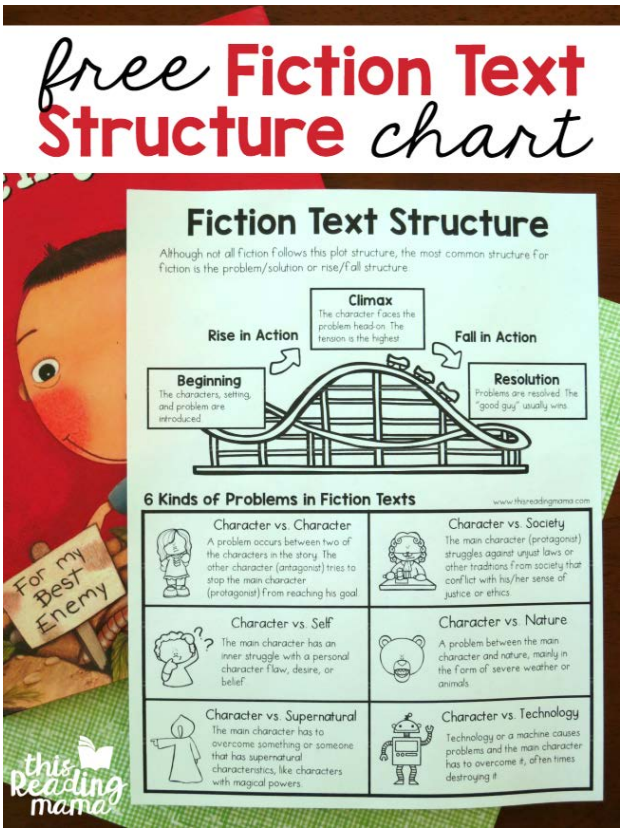

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