

NONFICTION PICTURE BOOK BRAINSTORMING TEMPLATE

“A story is a walk through the woods...the woods are the extra details but the trail you take is the path through those details.”

WHAT – BOOK IDEA/TOPIC:

What do you want to write about? Consider kid appeal – why will kids care?

WONDER:

What do you wonder about the topic? Spend 5 minutes “free wondering” (ask a lot of questions).

TEXT STRUCTURE:

Brainstorm several different text structures that might work for your idea.

SO WHAT – THE ANGLE:

The angle is the specific aspect of the topic you choose to focus on to **engage readers** and pull them in; new hero; the marriage of two unusual ideas; unique perspective.

ENTRY POINT (the subtle connection to reader's life; why will they care?):

LAYERS & HOOKS

A **HOOK** = grabs readers' attention, and **LAYERS** keep them reading with threads that explore themes and add richness. Every manuscript needs multiple hooks/layers.

THEME (universal idea or truth; the big idea; the statement a story is making about a topic):

NOW WHAT – READER'S TAKE-AWAY

What's the underlying message? What effect do you want the book to have on readers? What emotion do you want them to feel? Do you want to change readers' opinion about something, have them take action, make them see something differently, inspire them to learn more?

ARC:

What will guide or pull readers through the book? Find a way to guide your reader through the journey of the information you're sharing with them.

WORD BANK

Focus on word choice related to theme, alliteration, onomatopoeia, rhyme, etc.