

Understanding the Difference

Fiction Features	vs. Nonfiction Features
Written to entertain	Written to inform or persuade*
Written in past tense	Timeless verb construction
Specific characters	Can be random read (back & forth reading)
Read front to back	Written in expository text
Written in narrative	Table of Contents
Story form (has a beginning, middle & end)	Headings/subheadings
Table of contents	Chapters
Chapter titles	Real photographs
Chapters	Real people and places
Illustrations	Directly stated facts
Imaginary/make- believe, inferred, or embedded facts	Index
	Glossary
	Diagrams
	Maps
	Graphs
	Call-outs
	Sidebars
	Labels
	Captions
	Italics/bolded words
	Cutaways

***Informational textbooks written in narrative are considered entertaining. See — Joy Hakim’s *The History of US*: Oxford University Press**