

Non-Fiction Information Texts:

The CBCA shortlisted book, 'A Hollow is a Home', (2020) by Abbie Mitchell would work well for this purpose. This print-based text examines tree hollows and the important role they play providing shelter for our native birds. The book invites discussion of the written, visual, and spatial modes of communication. The suggested learning foci could be adapted to non-fiction texts related to classroom inquiry topics.

Possible teaching points include:

Written language:

- Contents page
- Chapter headings
- Subheadings
- The use of questions for subheadings to spark curiosity
- The use of font size and boldened text to highlight (give salience to) headings, subheadings and subjects specific vocabulary that is included in the glossary
- Glossary.

Visual information:

The text includes photographs of wildlife with captions underneath. These images provide detailed visual information and develop coherence between written and visual information. For example:

- p. 25 - Entrance size – uses text, graphics, and scale to relay information
- p. 31 - Home range of animals – uses text, scale, and colour to relay information
- p. 38 – Putting it all together – uses a graphic organiser and colour to summarise key points
- p. 46 – The ripple effect of habitat loss – uses text, colour, images to represent and explain content, and a flow chart to direct reading flow
- Maps are used throughout the text to communicate where animal species are found in Australia.

Spatial information:

Using the text consider the framing of images. How does the framing: close up, wide frame or long shot influence the meaning and understanding? For example:

- p. 73 - closely framed, to display animal features
- p. 27 - wide frame or long shots, to present information about habitat.

Digital texts:

The print-based text (*A Home is A Home*) can be compared to a digital text, [Swift Parrot Update](#) (ClickView login required, log in with your department credentials). This clip of an ABC program details a conservation plan to provide nesting boxes in safe places for the endangered swift parrots. This video could be used to examine and compare the way language, audio, visual and spatial information is used to create meaning for the viewer. For example:

- music – what is the style of music used throughout the video?
- spoken word, who is talking – tone of narrator and participants
- clothing and gestures of the participants

- distance, framing - when and why is long shot used? When and why is a medium shot used? When and why is a close shot used?

You could also compare these two digital texts which cover similar content for different audiences.

- [Octopus](#) (National Geographic Kids, 2014), which presents text, still images and video.
- [Octopuses](#) (National Geographic, 2019).

References

Mitchell, A. (2019) *A Hollow Is a Home*. Clayton South, Australia: CSIRO Publishing. Available at: <https://www.publish.csiro.au/book/7729> (Accessed: 24 November 2021).

National Geographic (2019) *Octopus Facts*. Available at: <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/invertebrates/facts/octopus-facts> (Accessed: 25 November 2021).

National Geographic Kids (2014) *Octopus*. Available at: <https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/animals/invertebrates/facts/octopus> (Accessed: 25 November 2021).

'Tick Bites, Swift Parrot' (2019) Catalyst, Series 17, episode 39. Australian Broadcasting Corporation, 23 April. Available at: <https://online.clickview.com.au/videos/9994874> (Accessed: 24 November 2021).