

## Teaching Second-Grade **Nonfiction Text Features** Using *From Acorn to Oak Tree* from **Start to Finish, Second Series**

Features that help students understand how an informational text is organized:

<b>FEATURE</b>	<b>PURPOSE</b>
Title page	Confirms title, author's name, and publisher
Contents Page	Identifies the topics to be presented and their order
Chapter name, heading, or subheading	Helps students identify main topics on a quick pass through the text
Page number	Helps students with sequence of ideas and aids in using the index
Glossary	Defines new and important words
Further reading and websites	Helps students expand their knowledge of the topic by listing other informational texts in print or on the Internet
Index	Lists the main ideas in the text, with page numbers to help students find them

Visual aids that help students understand informational texts:

<b>VISUAL AID</b>	<b>PURPOSE</b>
Photo, drawing, or illustration	Shows how something in the text looked or might have looked
Diagram	Gives a more detailed view of a complex topic

Features that point out important or additional information:

<b>FEATURE</b>	<b>PURPOSE</b>
Bold print	Tells students a word is new and important; sometimes a glossary term
Colored Print	Highlights a key topic or feature
Caption	Points out what's in a photo, a drawing, or an illustration and relates it to the informational text; often gives more information
Label	Identifies important points of interest in a diagram or photograph



**TITLE:** This is the title of the book. It tells you what the book is about.

**AUTHOR**

**TITLE PAGE:** This is the first page of the book. It tells you what the name, or title, of the book is. It also tells you who wrote the book. This person is called the author.

**TABLE OF CONTENTS:**  
 This list at the beginning of the book explains in what order you will read about topics. Page numbers tell where each topic starts.

**To Martha Warshaw, one of the great nature lovers of my childhood**

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## TABLE OF Contents

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**HEADINGS:** These words separate your book into parts. Headings are usually in bigger type and are at the top of the page. A heading tells you what's to come in that part of the book.

**TEXT OR MAIN TEXT:** These are the words on a page that describe the main ideas of the book. Main text is usually smaller than chapter titles or headings.

**First, acorns drop from an oak tree.**

This happens in the fall. An acorn is an oak tree **nut**. A hard shell outside protects the soft inside. A tiny **germ** of a plant is inside waiting to sprout. An oak tree grows many acorns every year.

**Leaves grow from the acorn's shoot.**

The acorn isn't a nut anymore. Now it is a **seedling**. The roots drink water from the soil. The leaves gather **nutrients** from the sun.



**BOLD PRINT:**

Words in bold print have thick, black letters. You might not know what these words mean. They are usually in a glossary, or list with meanings, at the end of the book.

**PHOTOS:**

The photos or pictures in a book show what the words, or text, describe. Looking at photos can help you understand the meaning of the text.

**Next, the seedling grows bark.**

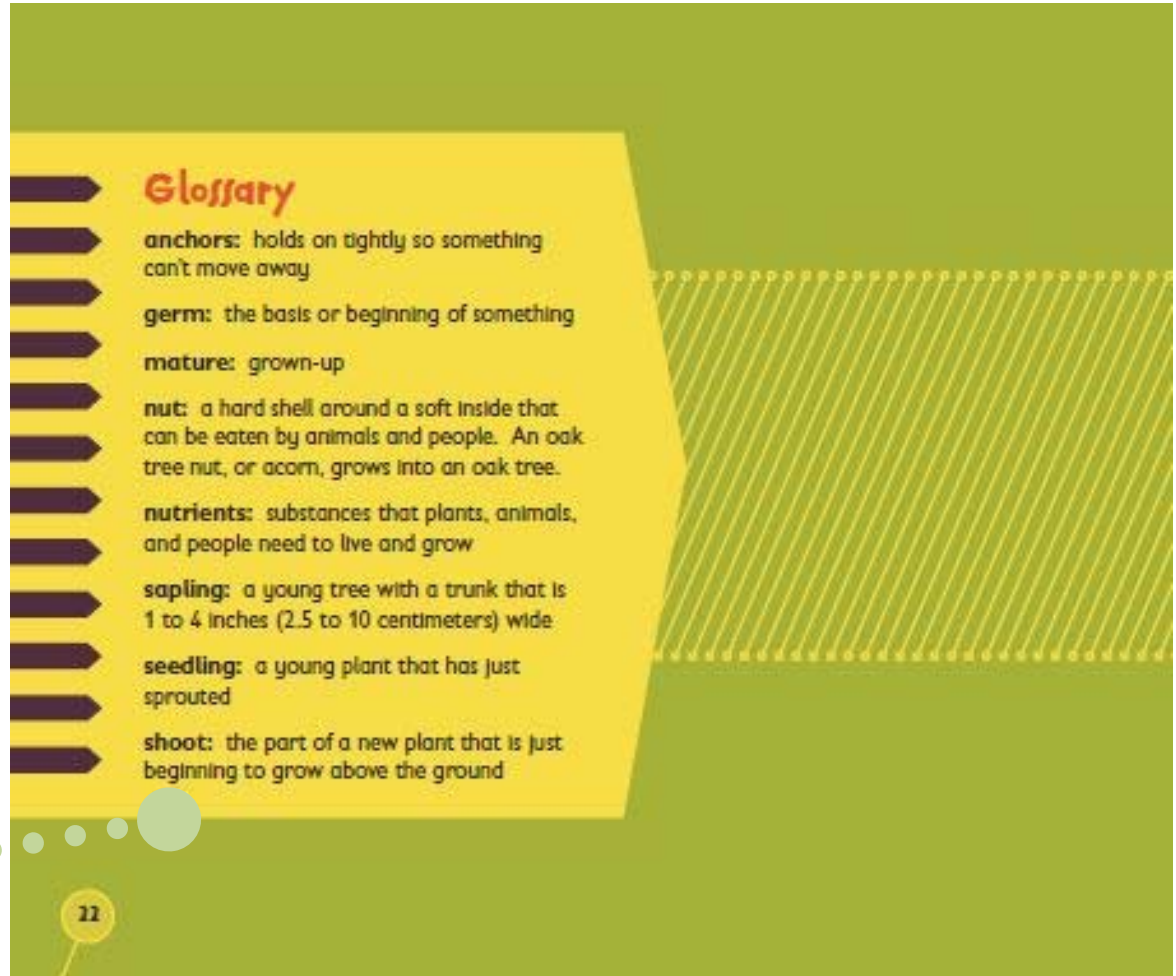
The bark grows thicker. The seedling grows taller and stronger. Small branches and more leaves grow. Under the soil, the roots spread out.

**PAGE NUMBERS:** Page numbers are on the lower part of most pages in a book. They tell you how far along you are in a book. They also help you find information from the index.

## GLOSSARY:

This list calls out the important words in a book. The glossary proves the meaning, or definition, of the word. You can find the glossary near the end of the book.

DEFINITION



**Further Information**

- 
 Arbor Day Foundation: Life of a Tree  
<https://www.arborday.org/kids/carly/lifeofatree>  
 Watch this interesting video to see how a tree grows.
- 
 Boothroyd, Jennifer. *Let's Visit the Deciduous Forest*. Minneapolis: Lerner Publications, 2017. Learn what's in a deciduous forest in this fun walk through a biome.
- 
 Kids.gov: Plants  
<https://kids.usa.gov/science/plants/index.shtml>  
 Visit the US government's website just for kids to learn all about gardening, nature, and plants.
- 
 Pipe, Jim. *You Wouldn't Want to Live without Trees!* New York: Franklin Watts, 2016. Learn everything you've ever wanted to know about trees in this general fact guide.
- 
 Russo, Monica. *Treecology: 30 Activities and Observations for Exploring the World of Trees and Forests*. Chicago: Chicago Review Press, 2016. Take your knowledge outdoors with this activity book all about nature.

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**FURTHER READING:** This list offers suggestions of books and websites on the same subject as the book you just read. You can learn more by looking at books and websites from the list. The list is at the end of your book.





**INDEX:** This list at the end of the book follows the order of the alphabet. The index helps you find main ideas. The words in the index are followed by page numbers. These numbers tell you where to go in a book to find the main ideas.