

MCAS ALT: THE BIG PICTURE IN ELA

The 2011 Massachusetts Curriculum Framework in ELA/Literacy includes separate strands for **Reading-Literature** and **Reading-Informational Text**. Therefore, these genres may not be combined in the MCAS-Alt portfolio strand in Reading. Teachers may choose to assess one or the other, but not both. The following information will assist in determining whether a text is literary or informational.

READING: LITERATURE VS. INFORMATIONAL TEXT (from engageny.org)

- **Literature:**

- Examples of literary text
 - A. adventure stories
 - B. nursery rhymes
 - C. poems
 - D. fables and folktales
 - E. legends
 - F. myths
 - G. fantasy
 - H. plays
 - I. historical fiction
 - J. mysteries
 - K. science fiction
 - L. realistic fiction
 - M. allegories
 - N. parodies
 - O. satire
 - P. graphic novels

- **Informational text:**

- Examples of informational text
 - A. Literary nonfiction
 - biographies and autobiographies
 - exposition, argument, and functional text
 1. personal essays and speeches
 2. opinion pieces
 3. essays about art or literature
 4. biographies and memoirs (including autobiographies and diaries)
 5. journalism
 - B. Historical, Scientific, and Technical Texts
 - texts about history, social studies, science, and the arts
 - technical texts: (directions from a manual or a recipe), information displayed in graphs, charts, or maps, and digital sources on a range of topics (must be in the context of a text, not in isolation)
 - historical, scientific, technical, or economic accounts (including digital sources)
 - journalistic pieces (news articles, magazine features, including digital sources)