

Finding the parts of an eBook

This reading activity works with most ebook titles.

Analysis: students will explore an ebook to analyze the various components of the text.

Ebooks, like printed books, share various components. Some of the parts of a book are more commonly found in nonfiction (glossaries, for example), while others might be more heavily featured in fiction (dedications, for example). It's important for students as readers to be able to identify the parts of a book and understand the purposes they serve—no matter what format the book is in, print or electronic. In some books, a page might serve the purposes of one or more of the components listed below. A dedication might appear on the copyright page, or the glossary and index might both fit on one page.

Have a discussion with the class about the parts of a book, and then have students identify the various components using the activity page. You may wish to model finding these book parts with the class before asking students to find them independently. You could do so with an ebook, using a computer and projector, or with a print book.

Parts of a book:

- Cover and spine: the outside of the book. On a print book, the spine is the skinny part between the front and back covers.
- End pages: pages at the very beginning and very end of the book that are intentionally left blank. To avoid confusion in ebooks, these pages sometimes have text written on them—"This page intentionally left blank."
- Front matter and back matter: the stuff that appears before and after the main text, or body, of the book.
- Copyright information: data about the publication of the book.
- Dedication: showcases the author's (and sometimes the illustrator's or photographer's) dedication of the book to someone as a tribute.
- Preface: another name for an introduction.
- Foreword: another type of introduction to a book, but it's usually written by someone besides the book's author.

Literacy Lesson Plan

- Title page: page at the beginning of the book that usually contains simply the title, the author's name, and sometimes the name of the publishing company.
- Table of contents: kind of like an outline, this lists the chapter numbers and titles as well as the page number that each of the chapters begins on.
- Main text (or body): the guts of the book.
- Glossary: list of key vocabulary terms from the book, with definitions.
- Index: list of key words, subtopics, and terms that a reader might wish to find within the book, along with the page number(s) each term can be found on.
- Bibliography: list of the sources of information that the author used in writing the book.
- Further reading/resources: suggestions of books, periodicals, websites, and other sources of additional information that the reader may wish to access.
- Appendix: usually contains additional information considered too detailed, a kind of an "aside," or tangential information—useful, but not appropriate for the actual book contents.
- About the author: usually a short biography of the author, often accompanied by a photograph. This feature may also include a listing of other books that the author has written.
- Credits: list of the sources of materials used in the book, including photographs, illustrations, data, quotations, etc.
- Front and back book flaps and back cover: on a hardcover print book, a paper "dust jacket" commonly wraps around the card board cover. The text that appears on it also appears in many books published electronically. It often contains a short synopsis of the book, with the purpose of drawing the reader in without telling too much. The "jacket" may also contain quotes from reviews of the book or of another book written by the same author.