

Using Information-Based Texts in the Elementary ESL Classroom

There are many types of books that can be explored in the ESL classroom. The text type and genre affect the way students interpret, relate to and ultimately interact with the text. Information-based texts have many specific features that set them apart, such as: diagrams, labels, photographs, captions, indexes, glossaries, etc. They can be connected to fiction or LES themes.

How to Use Non-fiction Texts in the Classroom:



Have available many examples of information-based texts such as narrative non-fiction, reference-oriented books, maps, brochures, newspapers, advertisements, etc.



Use content to engage and motivate students by providing a variety of both easier and more challenging books on topics your students are interested in.



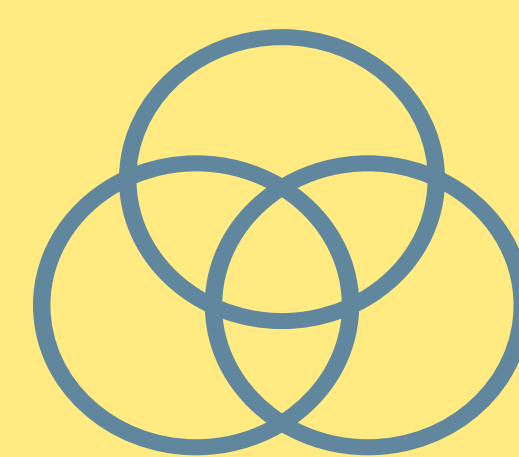
Include information-based texts and narrative non-fiction in your repertoire of read-alouds.



Use a non-fiction mentor text for think-aloud, modelling the way we naturally read non-fiction; progress non-linearly, refer to the features to find information and choose specific sections to focus on, rather than reading the whole book.



Explain the features of information-based texts, such as table of contents, glossary, captions, etc. Create anchor charts collaboratively for students to refer to in their independent reading.



Teach strategies to organize information found in an information-based text, such as a diagram, timeline or T-chart.



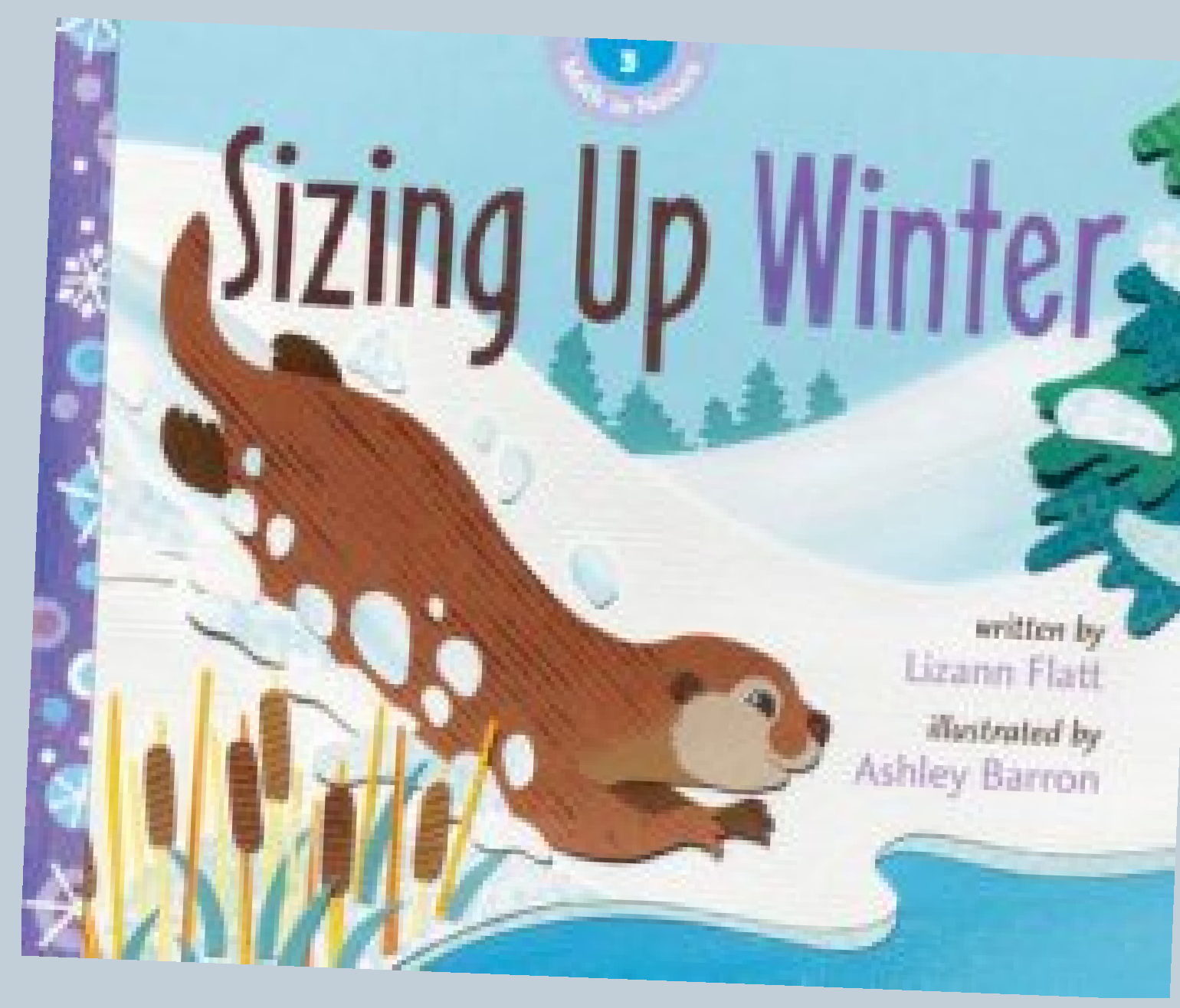
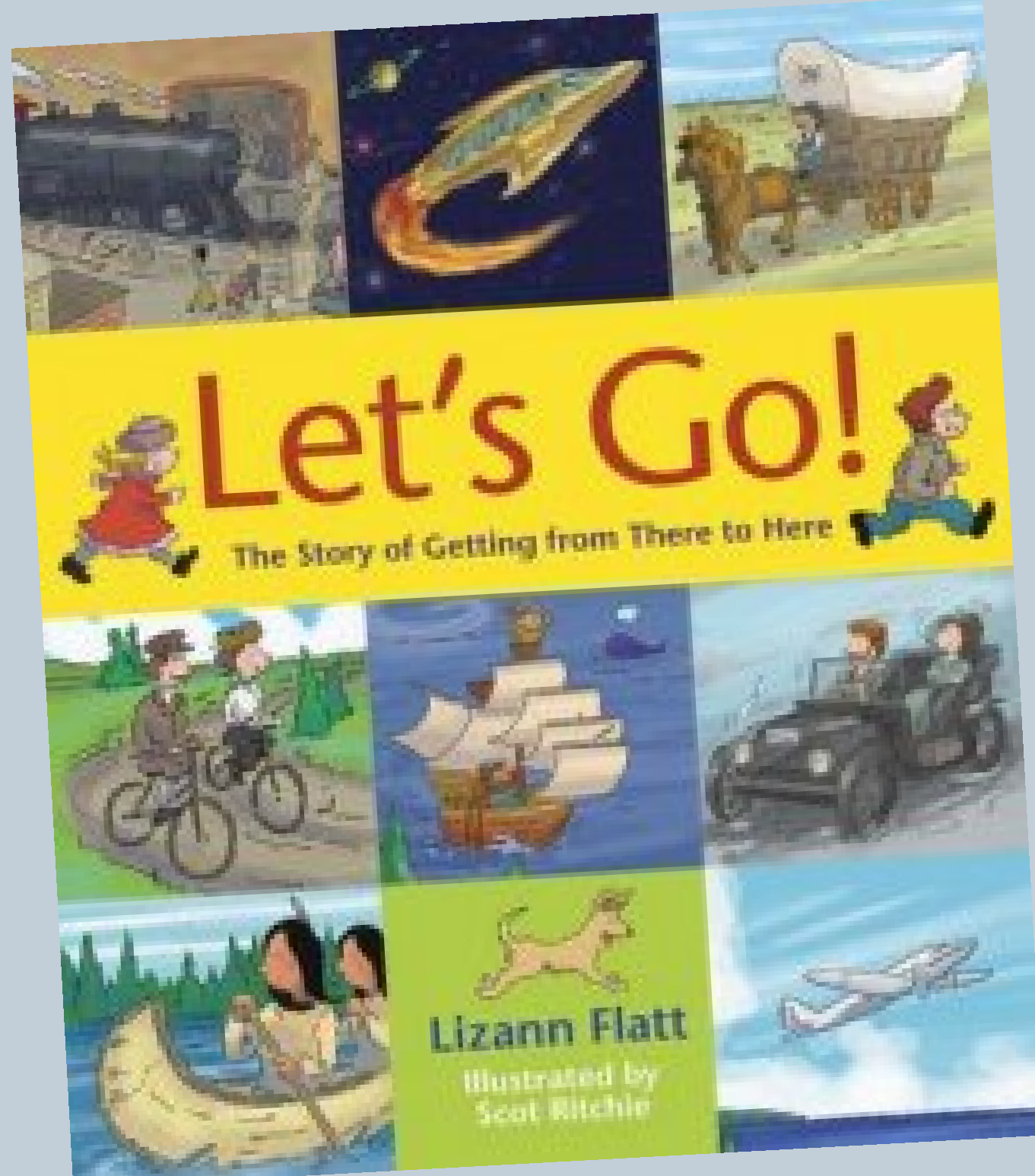
Give students opportunities to learn about and practise non-fiction writing.



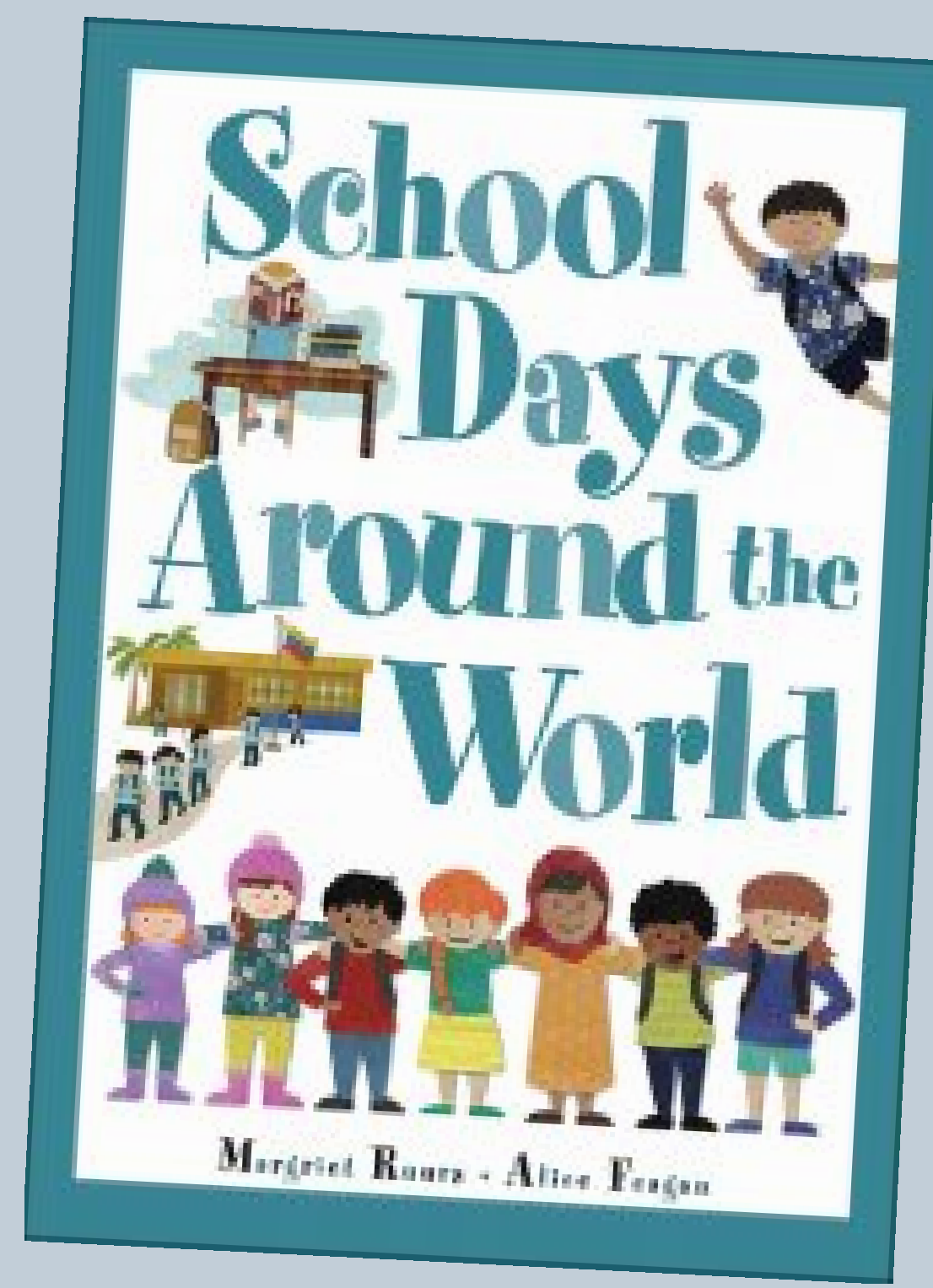
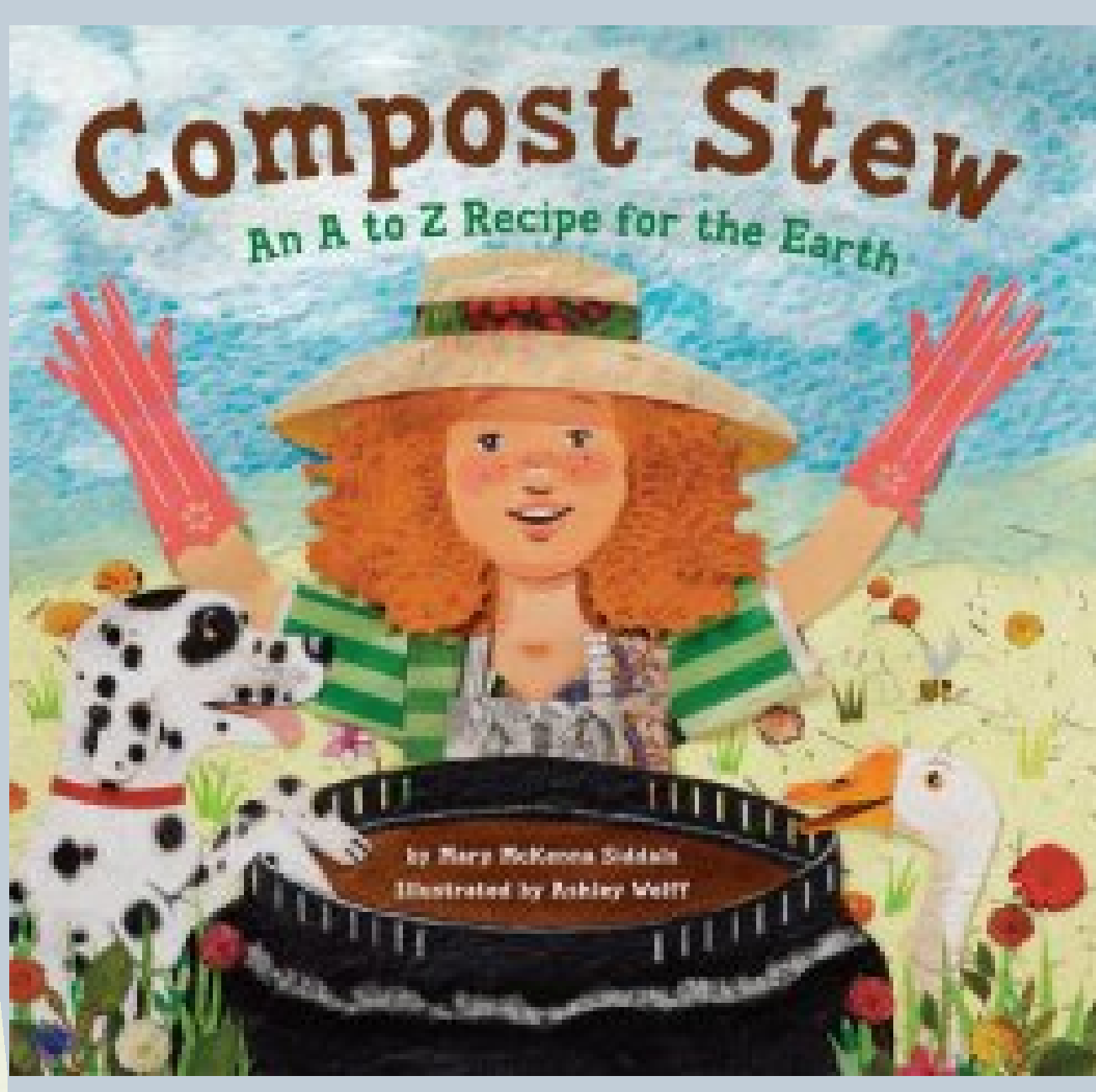
Help students become critical consumers of information by exploring fact-based texts that put forward an opinion and facts, and by recognizing and discussing bias.

Refer to these information-based texts in our collection for further ideas:

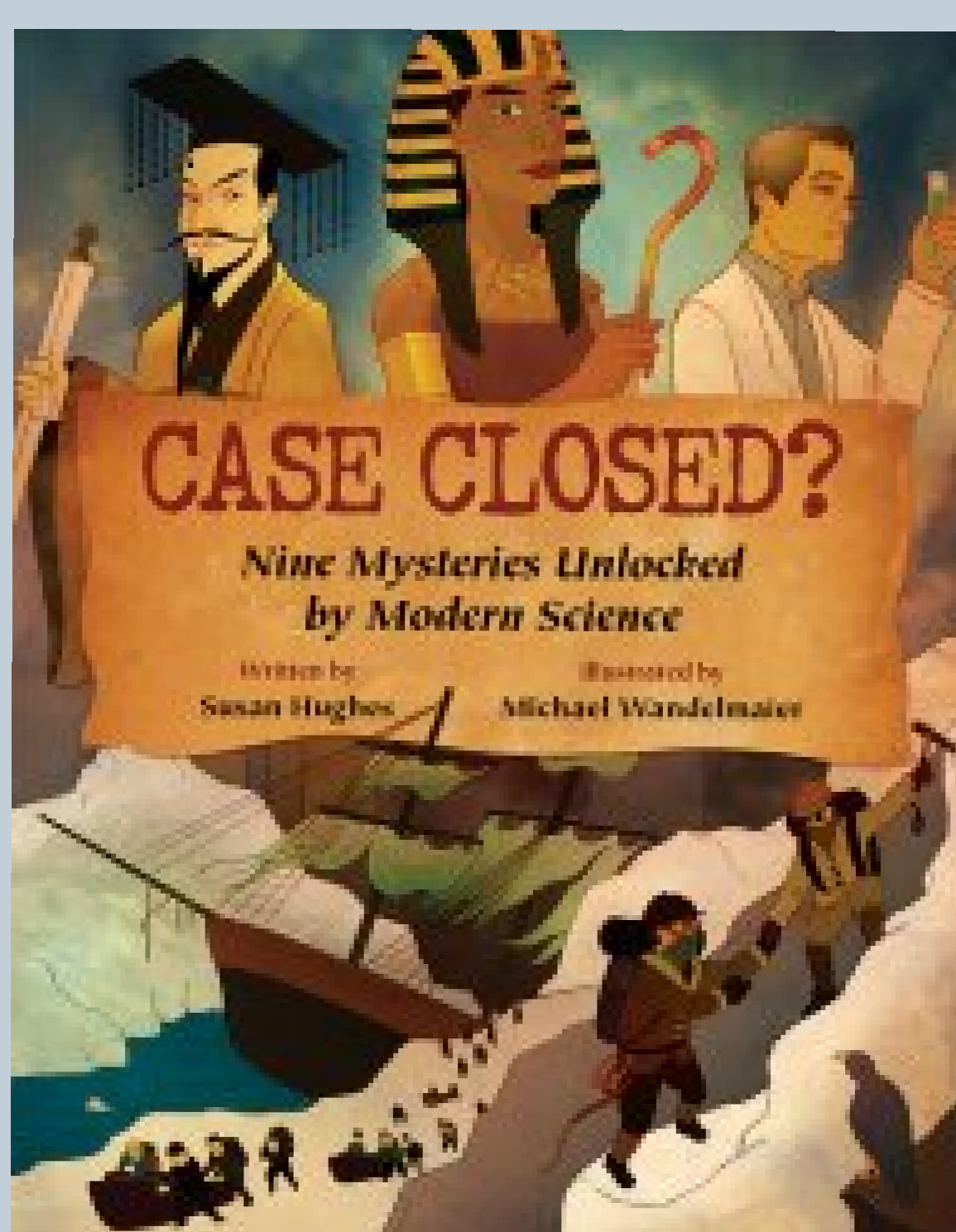
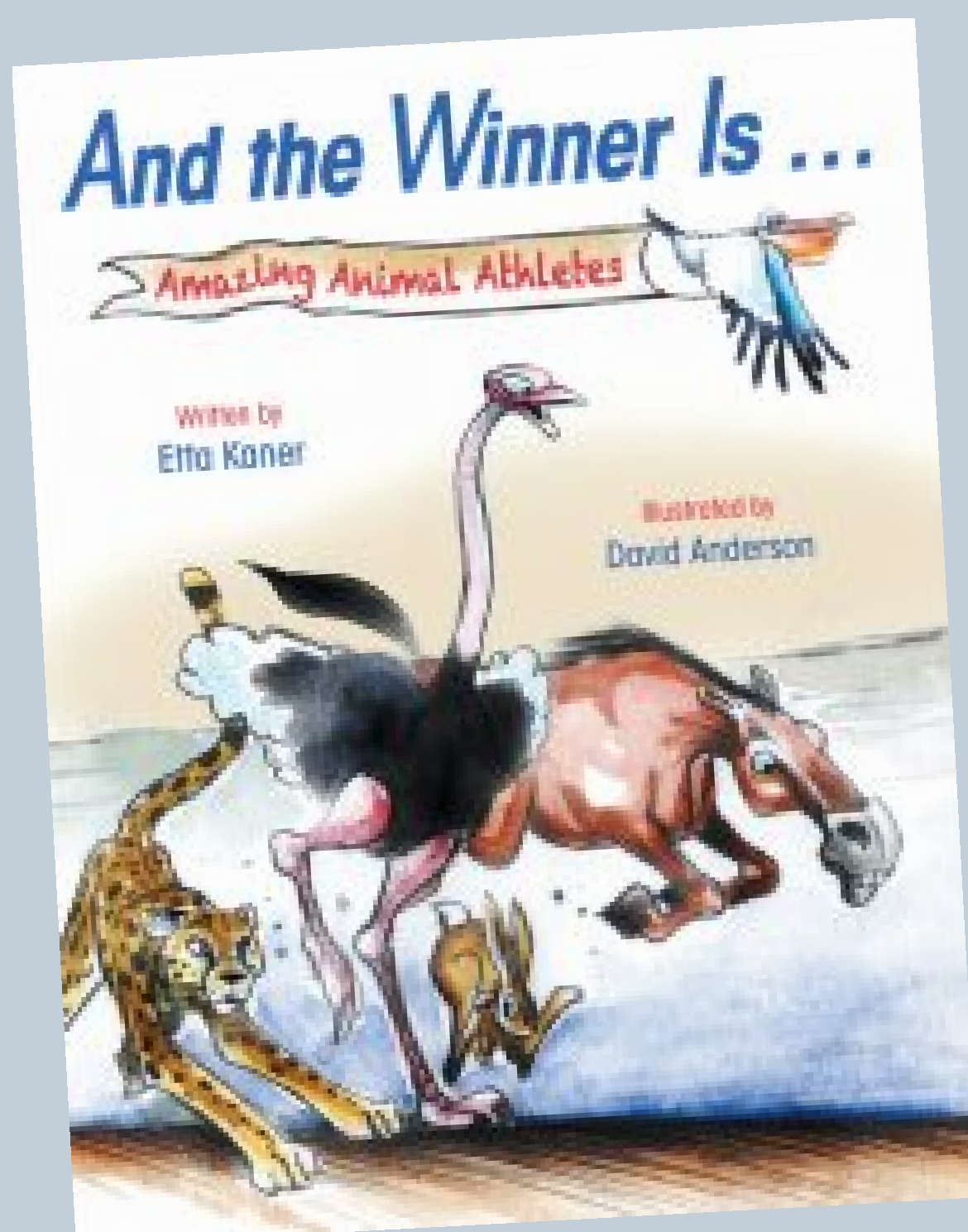
Cycle One:



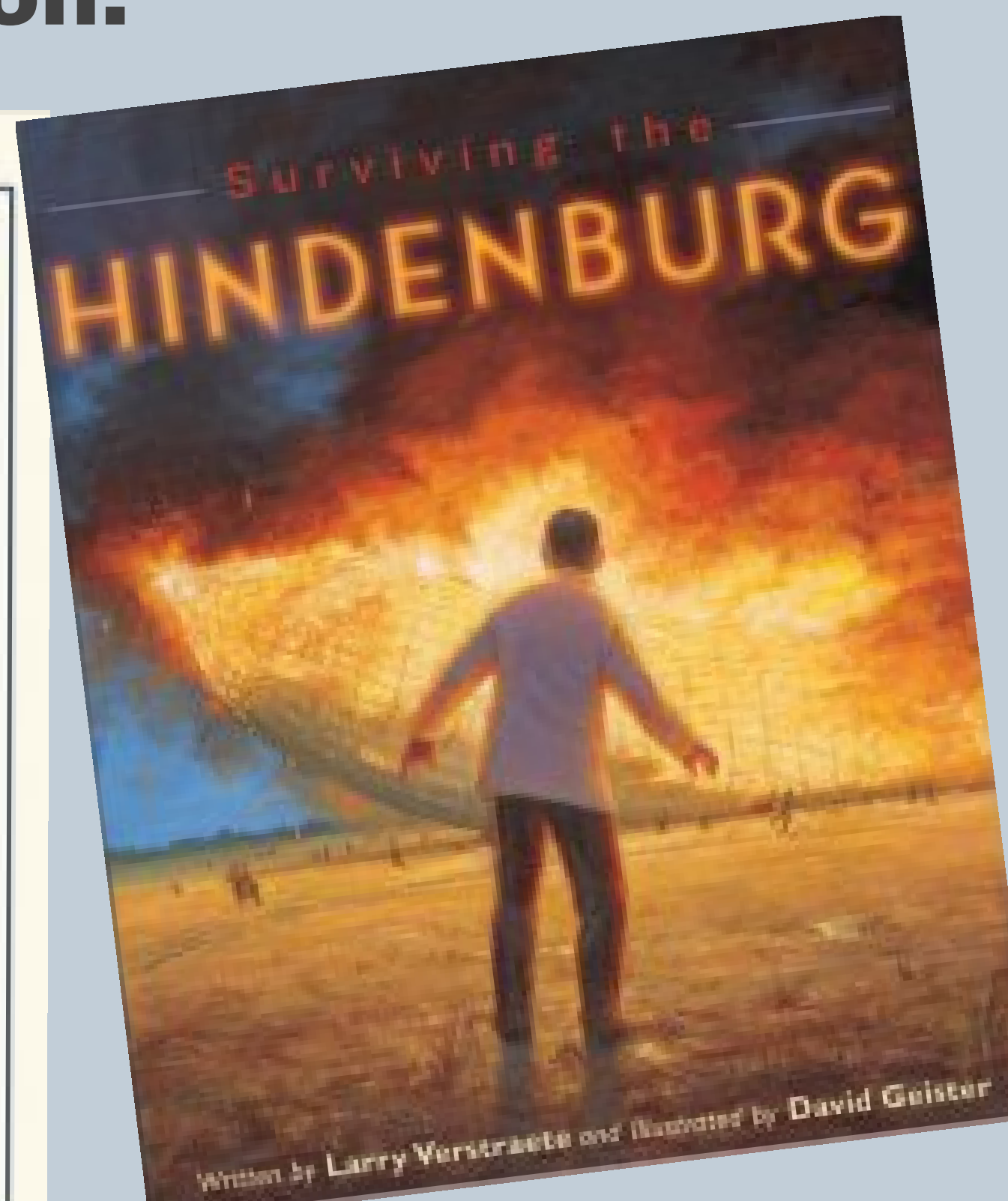
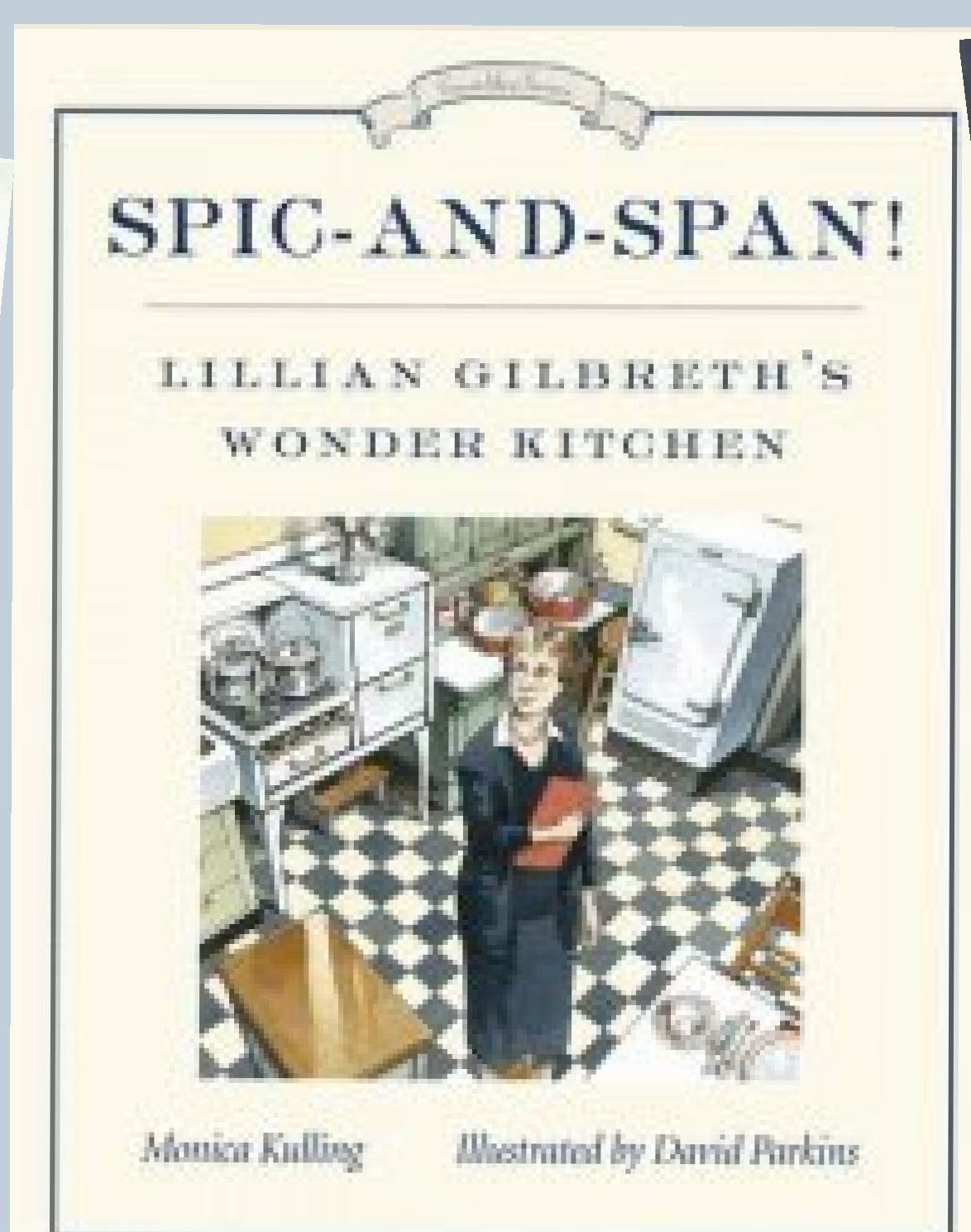
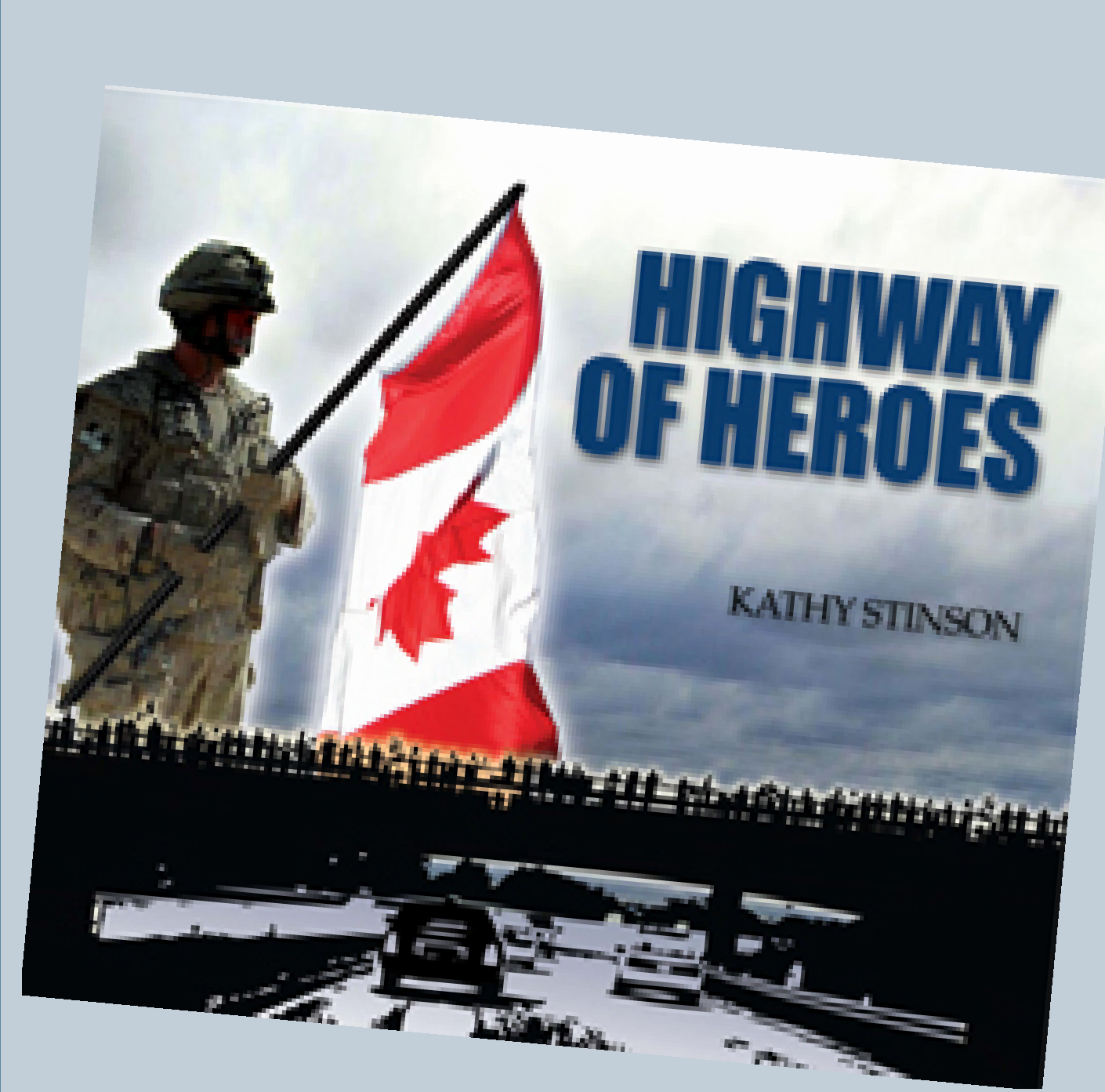
Cycle Two:



Cycle Three:



Narrative Non-fiction:



Reference-Oriented Non-fiction:

