

# Reading Non-Fiction Texts



# Learning Outcomes

By the end of this session you will be able to:

- Identify, genre, audience and purpose in non-fiction texts
- Explore presentational features in non-fiction texts
- Select relevant information and answer exam style questions on non-fiction texts

# Reading Assessment – End of Unit

You will have to:

- Read three short non-fiction texts.
- Answer 4 questions worth a total of 40 marks
- Develop and sustain interpretations of writer's ideas and perspectives
- Explain and evaluate how writers use language and presentational features to achieve effects and engage / influence the reader.
- Compare the ways in which language is used for effect in two of the texts

# Activity 1: What is a non-fiction text?

Take a few minutes to write down as many examples of non-fiction texts as you can think of.



# What are non-fiction texts?

- Non-fiction is a type or **genre** of writing.
- Based on facts and real life rather than a made-up or fictional story.
- **Genres** of non-fiction texts may include:
  - Journalistic writing
  - Magazine articles
  - Travel writing
  - Information leaflets
  - Diaries or blogs
  - Webpages
  - Advertisements



**Purpose** – What is the text trying to do? (e.g. Is it trying to persuade, inform, advise or entertain the reader?).

**Audience** – Who is the text aimed or intended for?(e.g. Adults, young people, holiday-makers etc).

# Presentational Devices

- Pictures
- Captions
- Pictures / photographs
- Colour
- Logos and slogans
- Choice of font style
- Titles and sub-headings
- Layout



Important Information at the top

Black background suggests possible grim results of flu

The key purpose of the leaflet is written in capitals

Colour scheme – blue and white and black makes image stand out

**SWINE FLU INFORMATION**

**0800 1 513 513**

[www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)

[www.direct.gov.uk/swineflu](http://www.direct.gov.uk/swineflu)

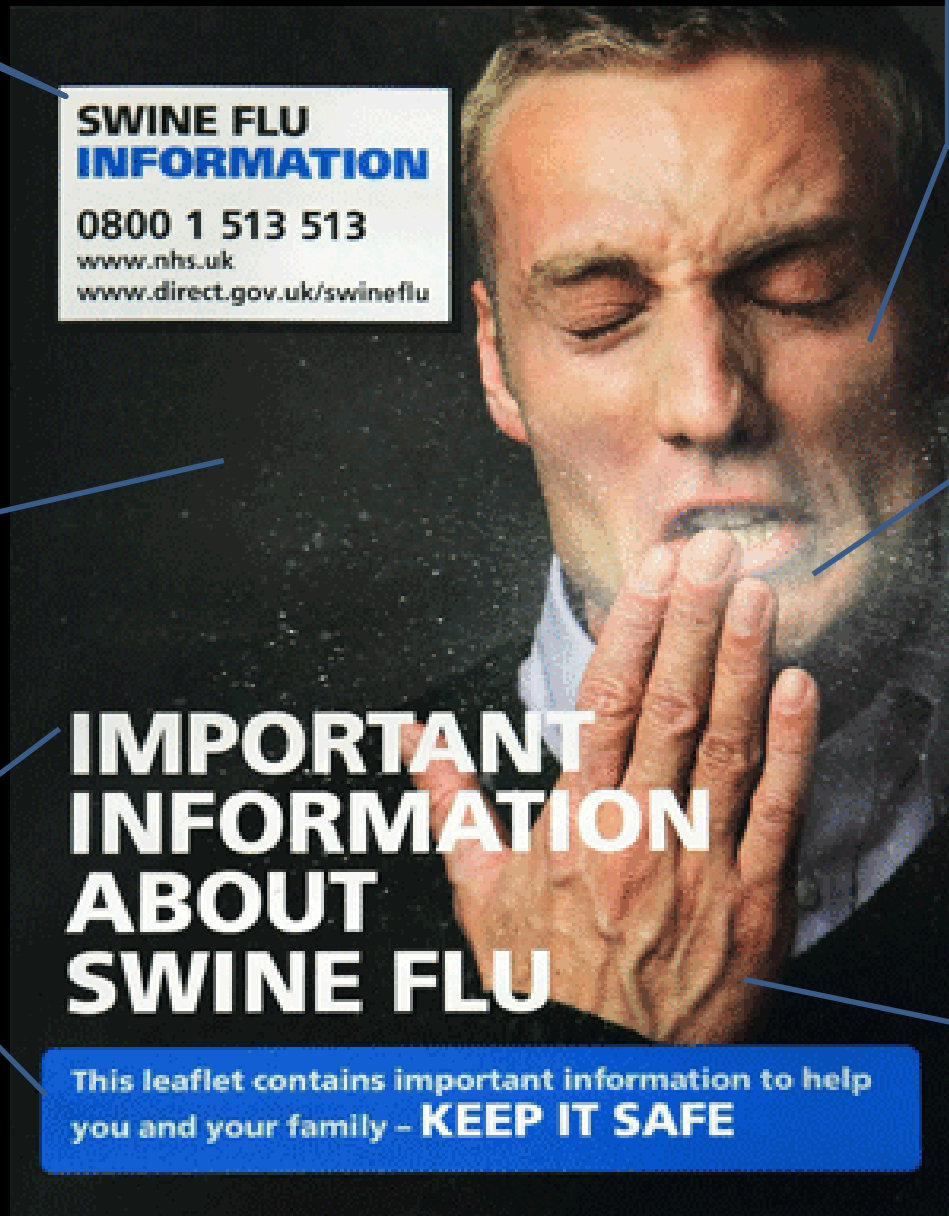
**IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT SWINE FLU**

This leaflet contains important information to help you and your family – **KEEP IT SAFE**

Large image showing swine flu germs being sprayed into the air

Hand features large in foreground – useless in preventing germs from spreading

The words 'Keep it Safe' are in capitals, for emphasis

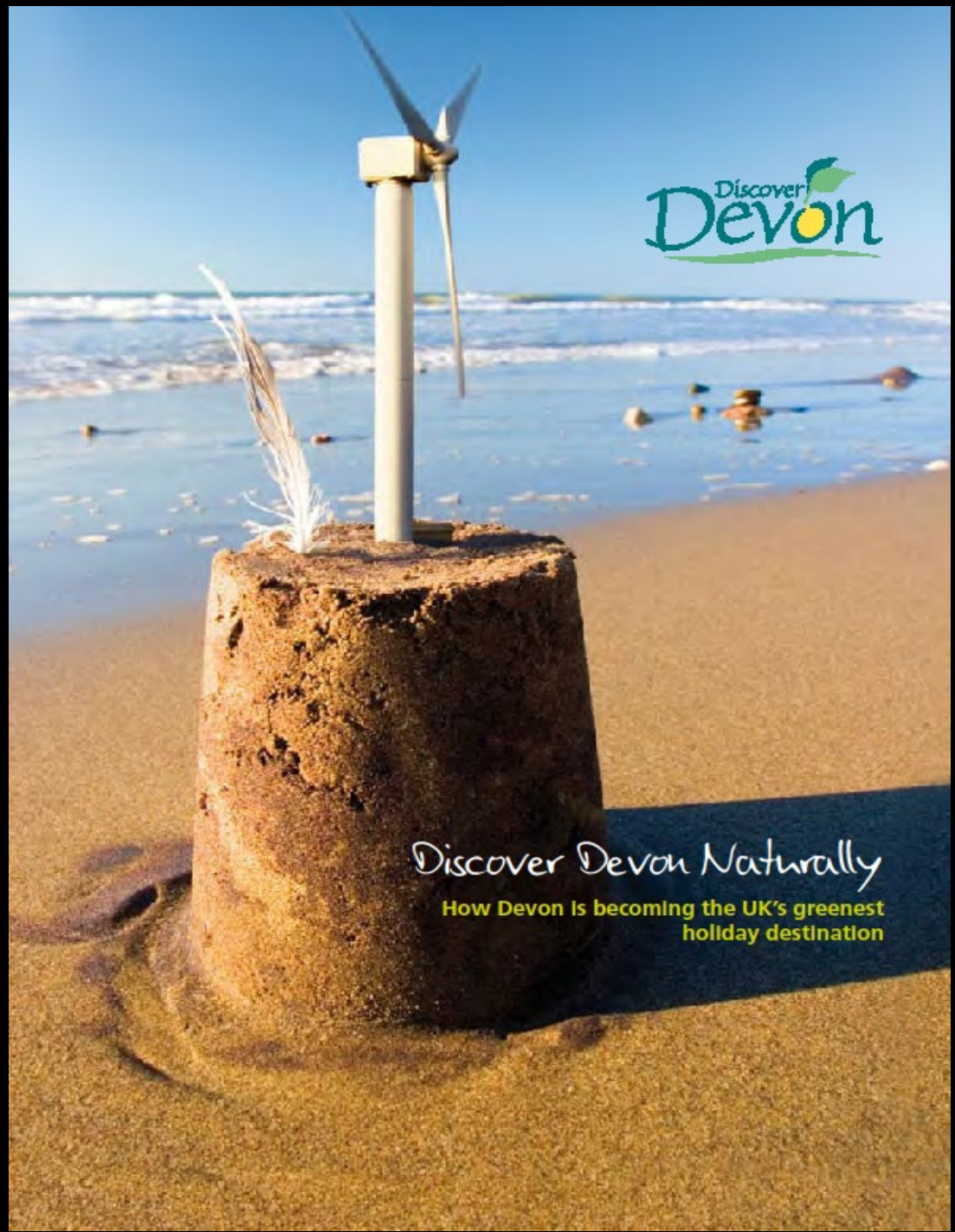




# Activity 2: Reading Advertisements

- In pairs look at the two non-fiction texts.
- Identify:
  - Genre
  - Audience
  - Purpose
- Answer the questions on the sheets and note down any presentational features that you think stand out (e.g. layout, colour and language).

# Text 1



Discover  
**Devon**

*Discover Devon Naturally*

How Devon is becoming the UK's greenest  
holiday destination

Text 2

**135** TRAVEL EXPERTS WHO CAN CHANGE YOUR LIFE  
*(Trust Us!)*

# Condé Nast Traveler

HOW TO  
CHOOSE THE  
RIGHT  
CRUISE  
Pullout Extra

TRUTH IN TRAVEL

AUGUST 2010

## FANTASTIC GETAWAYS!

*Living the Dream* in

ITALY, INDIA,  
KENYA, EGYPT,  
AUSTRALIA,  
SOUTH AFRICA,  
MEXICO, AND  
THE AMERICAN  
DESERT

**Tree House Havens:**  
High above Lion Sands  
Private Game Reserve,  
South Africa



**GREAT  
DEALS NOW:**  
Switzerland,  
San Francisco,  
Hong Kong

**PLUS:**  
*Cape Cod and The Islands*

# FRUIT LOVERS

think green

Whatever food you love, we can help you waste less and save up to £50 a month at [lovefoodhatewaste.com/yoururl](http://lovefoodhatewaste.com/yoururl)



LOGO POSITION 2

LOGO POSITION 1

LOVE  
FOOD  
hate waste

# DAIRY LOVERS

think green

Whatever food you love, we can help you waste less and save up to £50 a month at [lovefoodhatewaste.com/yoururl](http://lovefoodhatewaste.com/yoururl)



LOGO POSITION 2

LOGO POSITION 1

LOVE  
FOOD  
hate waste .com

POTATO  
LOVERS  
hate waste



- What do you think the **purpose** of this advert is?
- What is the effect of the **picture** on the reader?
- What about the use of **colour**?

# Denotation and Connotation



- What does this picture of Arsene Wenger show, or **denote**?
- What does the picture **connote**, or infer?

# The Effects of Language

You will need to look at the writer's choice of words and the effect they have on the reader:

- Focus on choice of vocabulary
- Types of sentences
- Techniques such as simile, metaphor and alliteration
- Humorous or factual?

# Activity 3

- Read the non-fiction text
- What is its purpose?
- Which target audience is it aimed at?
- What is the writer's perspective or point of view?

Answer the questions on the sheet.



# Implications and Assumptions

- An **implication** is something that is suggested but not directly said.
- An **assumption** is something you are expected to know as therefore isn't explained. Or, it could be something about the reader that is taken for granted.

# Arguments, Facts and Opinions

- An **argument** is what the text has to say. There may be one or main points.
- A **fact** is something that can be proved.
- An **opinion** is just someone's point of view, but is not necessarily true.

# Activity 4 – Assessment Practice

- Read the three sources
- What genres are they?
- Answer the questions accompanying the texts
- Compare the presentational features of two of the texts.
- You have one hour to complete this task.

**Plan** Sponsor a girl today  
Help girls speak out against child poverty

Sponsor a girl today ▶

### What you'll change

- Sponsor a girl with Plan and for **£15 a month** you can help provide a real solution for girls around the world.
- You'll give girls a voice, helping communities implement projects such as building schools, training healthcare workers and providing clean water so they get a better start in life.
- Sponsorship places children at the heart of the fight against poverty. Not only do they benefit from projects funded by sponsors, but they're actively involved in helping their communities plan them, ensuring they contribute towards lasting change.
- If you decide to sponsor a girl, as well as helping whole communities, your unique personal connection will aid her development. By writing to her you'll take an active interest in her life, helping boost her confidence and self-esteem, thus encouraging her to work towards a better future.

▶ Request further info

SEE A SPONSOR'S STORY

### What you'll receive

- A welcome pack containing a profile and photographs of your sponsored girl with details of their family and community, so you can really get a sense of the bigger picture.
- Details of the types of projects you'll be funding around the world, illustrating how Plan helps empower communities to meet the needs of all children.
- Annual updates on the progress of your sponsored girl, their family and community; showing you the difference you are helping to make.
- Two editions of our magazine World Family every year. This contains articles on Plan-supported work, sponsors' experiences and updates from around the world.

Sponsor a girl today ▶