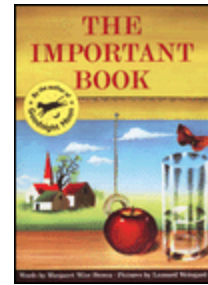


The Important Book, by Margaret Wise Brown
(ISBN 0-06-44327-0)

This is a very old book (©1949) with a wonderful pattern that lends itself to a wide variety of instructional uses. It can be used to focus on the properties, components and purpose/use of objects. Following the book's pattern, students can create non-fiction pieces of writing about any topic of choice. An example of the text follows:



"The important thing about a spoon is that you eat with it.
It's like a little shovel,
You hold it in your hand,
You can put it in your mouth,
It isn't flat,
It's hollow,
And it spoons things up.
But the important thing about a spoon is that you eat with it."

The Important Book Lesson Plan

1. After reading or learning about a particular topic, brainstorm facts on blackboard or large chart paper.
2. Next, read The Important Book, by Margaret Wise Brown.
3. On chart paper, write the beginning of the pattern; **"The important thing about _____ is that _____."**
4. Next, select several (your choice) facts to place in the middle section of the piece.
5. End the piece with the section of the pattern that reads; **"But the important thing about a _____ is that _____"**. (This repeats the first sentence--with the addition of the word, "But.")

For example:

The important thing about a plant is that it grows. (Or whatever your group decides.)

It grows from a seed.

It has a stem.

It has roots that grow into the ground.

A plant needs water to survive.

A plant needs warmth and sunlight to grow.

(You can add as many facts to the body of the piece as you like.)

But the important thing about a plant is that it grows.

A collection of individual student pages could be collated into a single book on a variety of topics, or each fact could be illustrated to create a class book about a single topic, such as the properties and uses of things.