Hybrid Texts
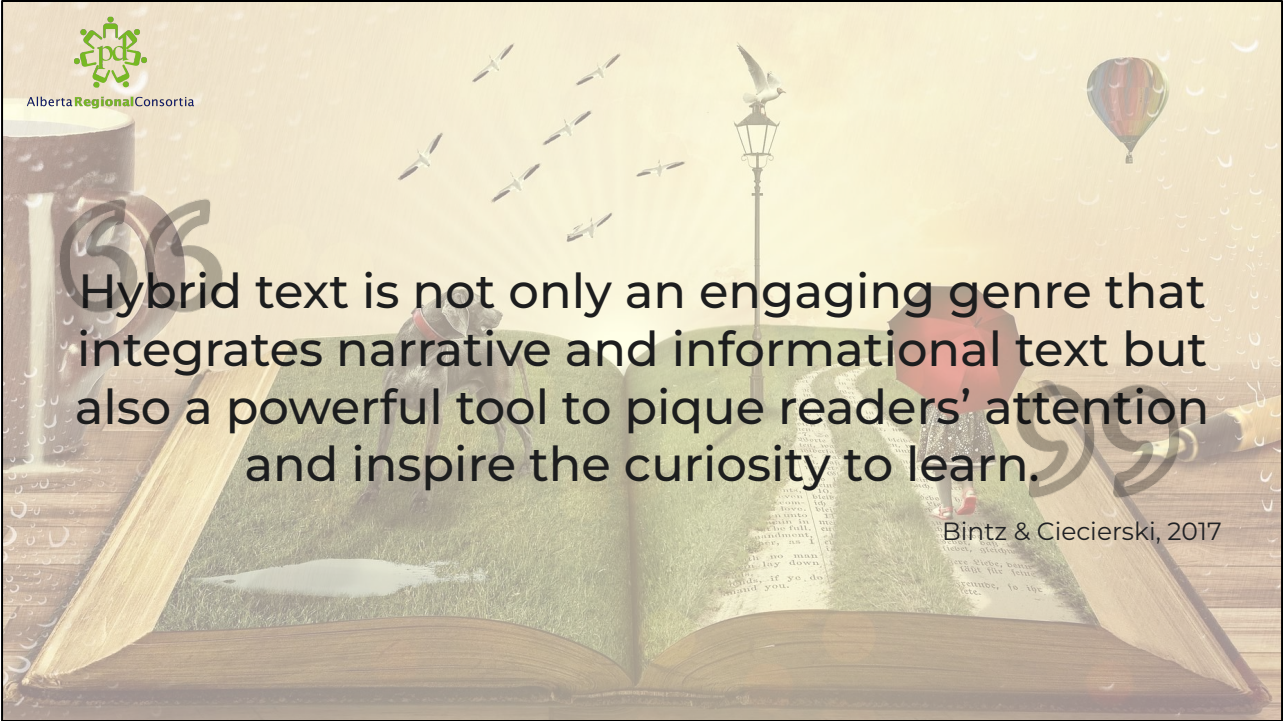
/ˈhīˌbrid/

a thing made by combining two different elements; a mixture

[List of Selected Hybrid Texts](#) (aka Book Wish List)

> Hybrid text is not only an engaging genre that integrates narrative and informational text but also a powerful tool to pique readers' attention and inspire the curiosity to learn.
>
> Bintz & Ciecierski, 2017

Source https://doi.org/10.1002/trtr.1560

Introducing Your Students to Hybrid Texts

- ❏ Gather a selection of hybrid texts. (See below.)
- ❏ Invite students to explore these texts in small groups.
  - ❏ Ask them to consider:
    - ❏ What do you notice?
    - ❏ What do you wonder?
  - ❏ Encourage students to use sticky notes to label their observations about this type of text.
- ❏ As a class, bring together the observations to compile a list of the characteristics of this type of text.
  - ❏ Provide several more samples. Ask students if this fits the criteria of a hybrid text. How do they know?
- ❏ Invite students to reflect on why an author might choose this form of writing.

Writing Hybrid Texts

Create from Given Non-Fiction Excerpt

❏ Offer students a selection non-fiction texts (ie. paragraphs from a textbook or similar resource) and ask them to transform it into a hybrid text through the addition of narrative/story or poetry.

Spend time with students exploring the connections between the fiction elements of the hybrid text and the non-fiction. What is the author doing that connects the two texts? How can we use these moves in our own writing? It might be easiest to focus this assignment to using the non-fiction text to create poetry. This would connect to mini-lessons on figurative language and forms of poetry. Add expectations to use of figurative language or poetic form to the Guide to Success (if applicable).

A Guide to Success has been started for this assignment idea – Make a copy and edit for your own context.

Grade Five

Students examine how text genres, forms, and structures support and enhance communication.

Knowledge	Understanding	Skills & Procedures
Texts can be digital or non-digital. Texts can have more than one purpose, including to • inform • entertain • persuade • inspire Reading stamina can be developed through engaging with text forms, genres, or structures that are personally enjoyable. Literary text forms can be fiction or non-fiction and include • photo essays • news articles • hybrids Hybrid is a type of text that includes both fiction and non-fiction text forms. Narrative texts can be fiction or non-fiction and can be structured in a variety of ways, including • beginning • problem • multiple events with many details • resolution of problem • ending	**Text genres, forms, and structures can support the enjoyment and communication of ideas and information.**	Examine the purpose of a variety of digital or non-digital texts. Engage with a variety of genres of literary texts. Determine the form and structure of a variety of literary texts. Develop reading stamina by engaging with text that is personally enjoyable.

Alberta **Regional** Consortia

Grade Five

Learning Outcome
Students enhance the accuracy and artistry of expression through creative and critical thinking processes.

Knowledge	Understanding	Skills & Procedures
Writing processes include • planning • drafting • revising • editing • publishing Planning includes • consideration of audience, purpose, and form • idea generation • narrowing a topic	**Writing skills can be developed to understand self and influence others.**	Create written texts for a variety of audiences and purposes. Create written texts in a variety of forms and structures. Publish selected pieces, incorporating graphics, captions, charts, or other texts features to support a purpose or connect with an audience.

Alberta **Regional** Consortia

Not all knowledge or skills & procedures are listed in this chart. Please refer to the complete outcome on new.learnalberta.ca

Grade Five

Learning Outcome
Students enhance the accuracy and artistry of expression through creative and critical thinking processes.

Knowledge	Understanding	Skills & Procedures
Creative thinking processes involve • elaborating on a product to ensure alignment with intended audience, purpose, or context • considering the processes of other creators • constructing drafts or models • applying feedback to improve the creative product • a willingness to confront challenges A mentor text serves as an example of effective communication for students.	**Creative thinking can enhance personal expression and artistry.**	Apply creative thinking processes to enhance personal expression and artistry. Analyze mentor texts to determine how word choice can influence the purpose or audience of a text.

Alberta **Regional** Consortia

Not all knowledge or skills & procedures are listed in this chart. Please refer to the complete outcome on new.learnalberta.ca

Writing Hybrid Texts

Research, Write NF, Craft Poetry

❏ Using *Ubiquitous* as a mentor text*, students will combine research on a topic of interest (possibly aligned to social studies or science) with a poem. Poems will be published as a collection in a classroom book.

You are welcome to choose another hybrid text example as your mentor text. If your students have created a list of characteristics of hybrid texts, then you can simply use that attribute list to guide their text creation.

A Guide to Success for this assignment has been started – make a copy and refine for your class needs.

Grade Six

Students analyze how text form and structure clarify information and support connecting with self, others, and the world.

Knowledge	Understanding	Skills & Procedures

Texts can have more than one purpose and may have one that stands out.
 	
Reading a variety of texts for enjoyment can support academic development.
 	
Literary texts can be categorized by genre, including fiction and nonfiction.
 	
Literary text forms can be digital or non-digital and include
      articles
      speeches
      hybrids
 	
Narrative texts can be fiction or non-fiction and can be structured in a variety of ways to create effect.
	Text genres, forms, and structures can enhance and influence the enjoyment and communication of ideas and information.	Analyze the purpose of a variety of digital or non-digital texts.
		
		Categorize a variety of texts according to genre.
		
		Examine the form and structure of a variety of literary texts.
		
		Make connections between texts read for enjoyment and academic development.

Alberta **Regional** Consortia

Grade Six

Learning Outcome
Students create texts that reflect personal voice and style through creative and critical thinking processes.

Knowledge	Understanding	Skills & Procedures
Writing processes can be used to clearly compose and refine ideas and develop personal style, and include • planning • drafting • revising • editing • publishing Planning can help organize thoughts and prioritize information and includes • consideration of audience, purpose, and form • idea generation • narrowing a topic Revision may involve adding or deleting portions of text, moving pieces of text around, or restructuring sentences.	**Writing can cultivate expression, problem solving, and critical thinking.**	Create written texts for a variety of audiences and purposes. Create written texts in a variety of forms and structures. Revise text for clarity, focus, and audience.

Alberta **Regional** Consortia

Not all knowledge or skills & procedures are listed in this chart. Please refer to the complete outcome on new.learnalberta.ca

Grade Six

Learning Outcome
Students create texts that reflect personal voice and style through creative and critical thinking processes.

Knowledge	Understanding	Skills & Procedures
Creative thinking processes involve • communicating an intent in a variety of contexts and for a variety of audiences • experimenting with ideas or processes to enhance expression • evaluating and adapting ideas in response to emerging conditions • being determined to succeed in producing a desired effect Words can create effects or emphasis, including • simplicity • clarity • colourfulness • precision • appeal Word choice can reflect the author's voice or style, including in texts that • use specialized vocabulary (e.g., research reports, informative posters) • provide the author the freedom to use unique or unexpected words or phrases (e.g., poetry, stories, advertisements)	**Creative thinking can enhance personal style and voice through experimenting with, evaluating, and selecting details.**	Apply creative thinking processes through experimenting with, evaluating, and selecting details to produce a desired effect. Enhance personal style and voice through careful selection of words to create emphasis or effects. Create text that uses imagery, rhyme, dialogue, emphasis, or effect.

Alberta **Regional** Consortia

Not all knowledge or skills & procedures are listed in this chart. Please refer to the complete outcome on new.learnalberta.ca

Hybrid Text Examples

The following slides are included for TEACHER reference only. Allowing your students to discover characteristics of hybrid texts themselves, provides greater opportunity for understanding and application of their observations.
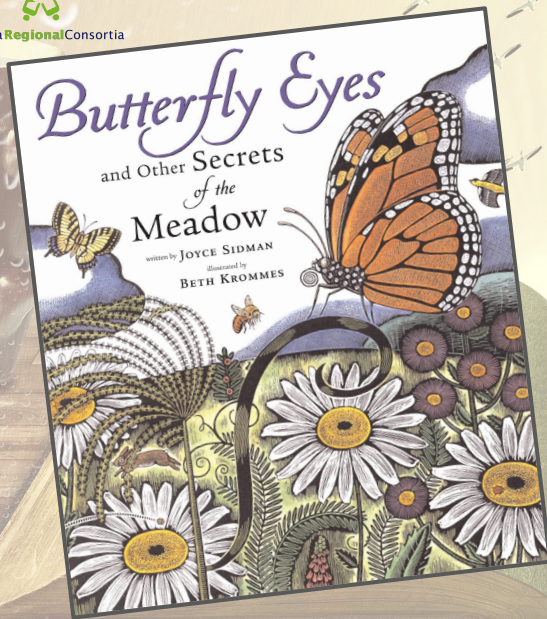
Hybrid Text Examples

What makes it hybrid?
Narrative about the life of a bumblebee queen (fiction) alongside Sidebars of informational text (nonfiction), visually separated by font and a flying bee image.

The Bumblebee Queen
April Pulley Sayre

Hybrid Text Examples

Butterfly Eyes
and Other Secrets
of the
Meadow

written by JOYCE SIDMAN

illustrated by
BETH KROMMES

What makes it hybrid?
Poems structured as a What is it? riddle (fiction) followed by informational text responding to the questions on the previous pages (nonfiction).

Butterfly Eyes and
Other Secrets of the Meadow
Joyce Sidman

Hybrid Text Examples
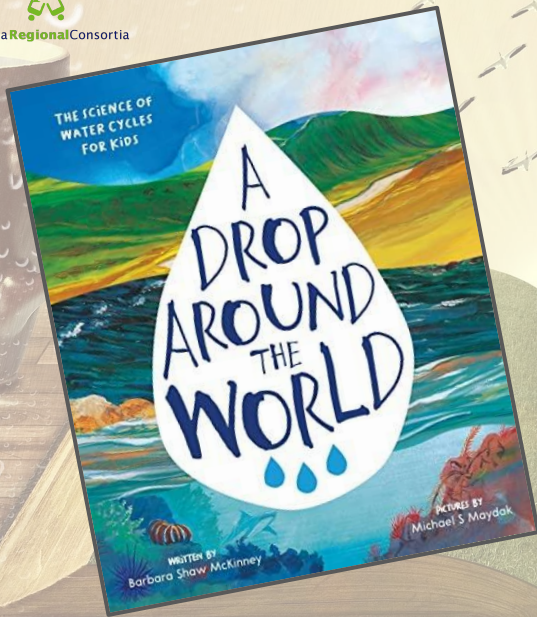
What makes it hybrid?

The water cycle explored in lyrical stanzas (fiction) paired with icons for each step of the cycle. Informational text related to icons presented at the end of the book like a glossary or appendix (nonfiction).

A Drop Around the World
Barbara Shaw McKinney

Hybrid Text Examples
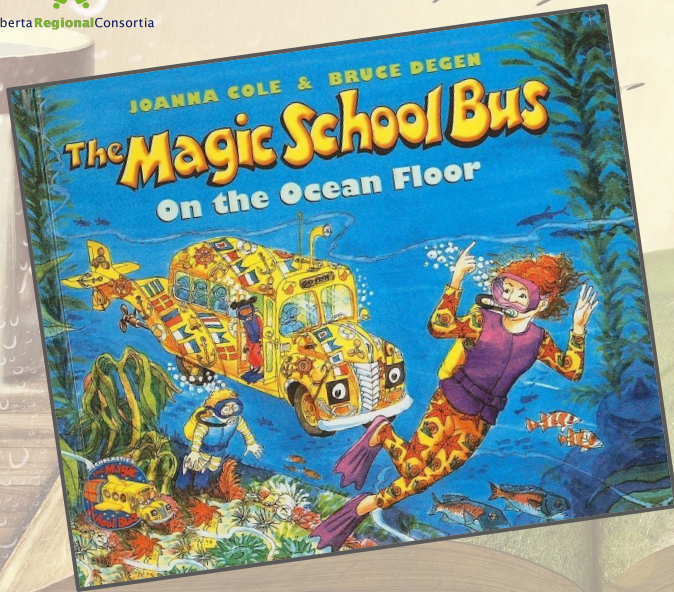
What makes it hybrid?
Students go on science adventures with Miss Frizzle with dialogue set up like a graphic novel (fiction). Some pages feature facts/notes on looseleaf pages to compliment what they are learning in the story (nonfiction).

The Magic School Bus Series
Joanna Cole & Bruce Degen
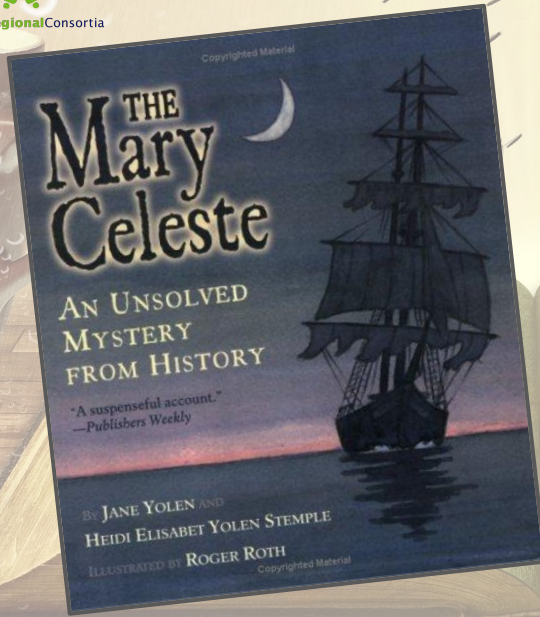
Hybrid Text Examples
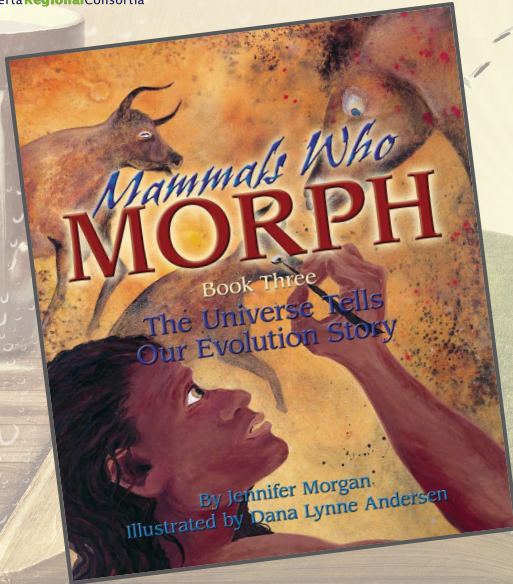
What makes it hybrid?
The universe narrates a story about evolution on Earth (fiction) and it's layered with informational text, as well as a running timeline along the top of the page (nonfiction).

Mammals Who Morph:
*The Universe Tells Our Evolution Story*
Jennifer Morgan

Hybrid Text Examples

What makes it hybrid?
Narrative about the discovery of an abandoned ship mid-ocean (fiction) and glossary words are dispersed throughout on post-it notes, as well as informational texts on sidebars on a lined paper notebook (nonfiction).

The Mary Celeste:
An Unsolved Mystery from History
Jane Yolen & Heidi Elisabet Yolen Stemple

Hybrid Text Examples
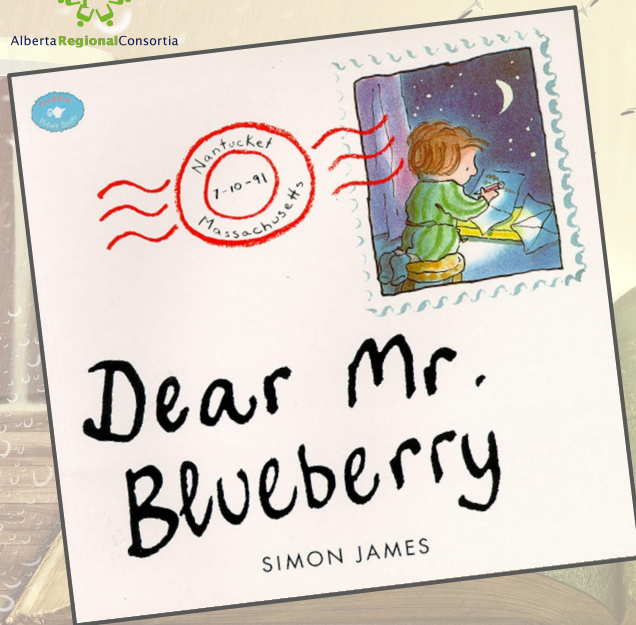
What makes it hybrid?

Emily shares letters with her teacher about a whale in her backyard pond (fiction) and his responses include facts about whales for her to consider (nonfiction).

Dear Mr. Blueberry
Simon James

Hybrid Text Examples

What makes it hybrid?
Narrative text about cross-country skiing through the forest (fiction) and informational text about the animals is included like an appendix at the back of the book (nonfiction).

Over and Under the Snow
Kate Messner

Hybrid Text Examples

What makes it hybrid?

Each double page spread features a poem on one page (fiction) and informational text about nature's survivors on the other (nonfiction).

Ubiquitous:
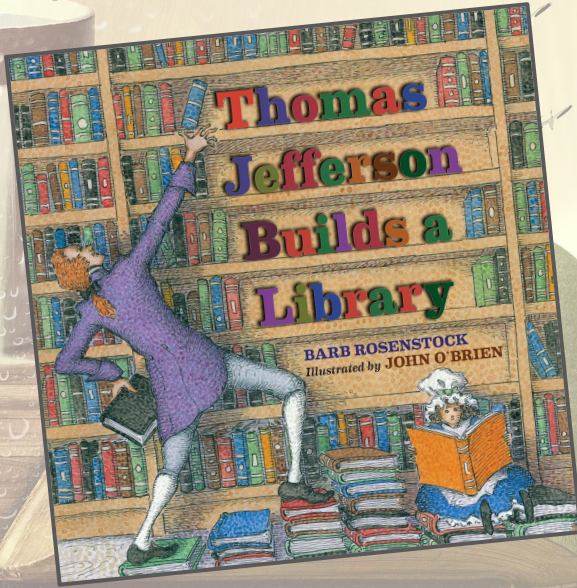*Celebrating Nature's Survivors*
Joyce Sidman

Alberta Regional Consortia

What makes it hybrid?
The biography of Jefferson is written in story/narrative form (fiction) and mini books throughout feature facts about Jefferson and books (nonfiction).
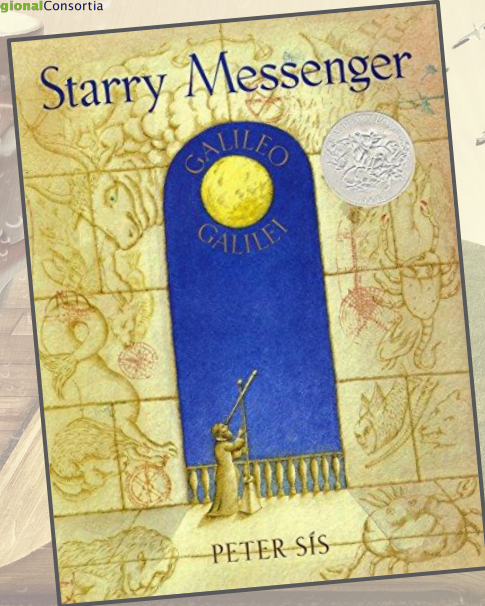
Thomas Jefferson Builds a Library
Barb Rosenstock

Hybrid Text Examples

What makes it hybrid?
The biography of Galileo is written in story/narrative form (fiction) and marginalia* includes information about Italy, Pisa, Galileo's schools and some inventions (nonfiction).

Starry Messenger
Peter Sis

*Marginalia is written text, symbols, illuminations, scribbles, and comments in the margins of a text.

Hybrid Text Examples

What makes it hybrid?
The biography of Wilson Bentley is written in story/narrative form (fiction) and marginalia* includes additional facts about his research on snowflakes (nonfiction).

Snowflake Bentley
Jacqueline Briggs Martin

*Marginalia is written text, symbols, illuminations, scribbles, and comments in the margins of a text.
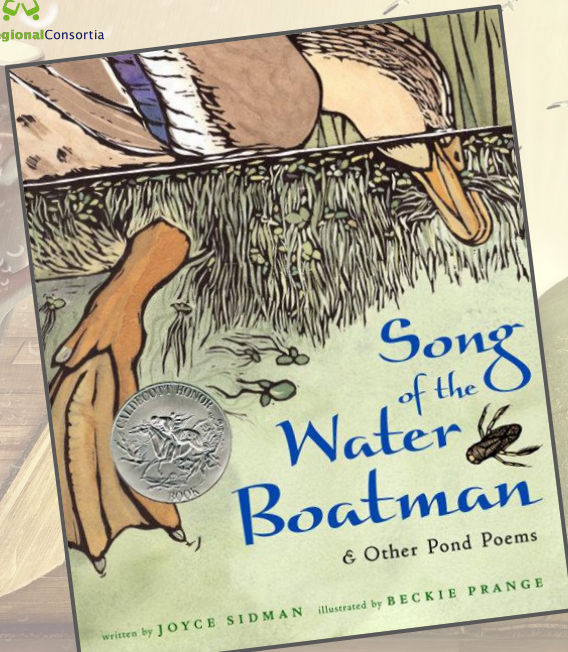
Hybrid Text Examples

What makes it hybrid?
Each double page spread features a poem on one page (fiction) and informational text about pond creatures on the other (nonfiction).

Song of the Water Boatman & Other Pond Poems
Joyce Sidman

Hybrid Text Examples

What makes it hybrid?
The narrative follows the life of one diamond python (fiction) and python facts are added throughout using a different font (nonfiction).

Python
Christopher Cheng & Mark Jackson

Hybrid Text Examples

What makes it hybrid?
Each double page spread features a poem on one page (fiction) and informational text about animals in the winter on the other (nonfiction).

Joyce Sidman & Rick Allen

WINTER BEES
& Other Poems of the Cold

Winter Bees &
Other Poems of the Cold
Joyce Sidman & Rick Allen

Hybrid Text Examples

One Leaf Rides the Wind
by CELESTE DAVIDSON MANNIS • pictures by SUSAN KATHLEEN HARTUNG

What makes it hybrid?
Haiku poems about a Japanese Garden (fiction) and facts about the garden are at the bottom of each page (nonfiction).

One Leaf Rides the Wind
Celeste Davidson Mannis

Hybrid Text Examples

What makes it hybrid?
Jack and Annie travel through time and place via books they find in the magic treehouse (fiction) and facts from the reference books are included throughout using a different font (nonfiction).

Magic Treehouse Series
Mary Pope Osborne

References

Bintz, W.P., & Ciecierski, L.M. (2017). Hybrid Text: An Engaging Genre to Teach Content Area Material Across the Curriculum. *The Reading Teacher*, 71(1), 61– 69. doi: 10.1002/trtr.1560