

# Instructional Overview

**Inventing the Future: A Photobiography of Thomas Alva Edison**  
By: Marfé Ferguson Delano  
Grade Level: 4 / Guided Reading Level: R

**Book Club**

**Instructional Focus:**  
Making Inferences

**Background:**  
Making inferences is an important skill for students to develop as they transition into strong readers capable of higher order thinking. To use this skill successfully, students must be able to integrate their own background knowledge with related clues from the text. This blending of information allows the reader to dig deeper into the text and understand ideas that are not explicitly stated by the author.

In this high interest photobiography of Thomas Edison, students will examine nonfiction text features including photographs, captions, drawings and sketches, an index, and more to make inferences as they seek to deeply understand Edison's life and work.

**Instructional Overview:**

**Meeting #1**  
Set Expectations for Book Club and Introduce Making Inferences

**Meeting #2**  
Making Inferences Using Nonfiction Text Features

**Meeting #3**  
Reflecting on Making Inferences with a Nonfiction Text

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Instructional Focus



Description of the Instructional Focus



List of Book Club Meetings and the Instructional Focus for Each Meeting



List of Materials and Preparation



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**Book Club**

**Materials and Preparation:**

- Determine which students will participate in the *Inventing the Future: A Photobiography of Thomas Alva Edison* Book Club (4-6 students)
- Gather copies of *Inventing the Future: A Photobiography of Thomas Alva Edison* by Marfé Ferguson Delano (1 per student)
- Prepare copies of the Book Club Calendar (1 per student)
- Prepare copies of the Expectations for Book Club (1 per student)
- Prepare copies of the Book Club Reading Response Board (1 per student)
- Prepare Reader's Notebooks (1 per student)
- Prepare Making Inferences About Thomas Edison graphic organizer
- Prepare Making Inferences Using Nonfiction Text Features graphic organizer
- Prepare Chart Paper and Marker
- Prepare IF Edison was a Kid Today... Scenario Cards
- Prepare If Edison Was a Kid Today... Worksheet
- Gather Sticky Notes and Chart Paper (for use throughout Book Club)
- Optional: Prepare Vocabulary Resources (1 set per student)
- Optional: Prepare Student Self-Evaluation Forms (1 per student per meeting)
- Optional: Prepare Assessment Resources (1 set per student)

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