

## Lesson 15: Writers Use Words and Illustrations in Their Nonfiction Writing

### Supplies Needed:

- A stack of 8 to 10 nonfiction books that use words and pictures/diagrams to help teach the topic. (These books can be on any topic, but narrowing them down to one type, such as animals, might make this lesson easier.)
- Sharks! By Anne Schreiber (or another nonfiction book of your choice that contains good words and diagrams).

### Procedure:

- Begin by handing out the stack of books to partners or small groups. Give students a few minutes to look through the books before presenting them with any questions or thoughts.
- After they have had the chance to glance through them, ask what they notice. They will most likely be able to tell you that they are about animals and that they are nonfiction. They might even notice other features such as labels, a table of contents or a glossary.
- Ask students to find a picture in their books that helps to teach them something about the topic. Give some students time to share the picture they found and what they learned.
- Discuss how the pictures (sometimes called diagrams) with words help the reader learn more about the topic of the book. These diagrams may help the reader to visualize something the author is teaching about or may help to explain something that may not be very understandable with words in the text only.
- Gather the students and show them the book Sharks! Flip to pages 6 & 7 and talk about the labels on the pictures and how they help to teach the reader something. Page 18 is a good example of the author using pictures to teach about different shark teeth.
- Encourage students who may be currently working on nonfiction books to use diagrams with words/labels as one way to explain or teach more about their topic. Let them know that these pictures that

they create for their nonfiction can be a great way for readers to learn.

- Send students to their writing spots to work. You may want to ask if anyone is currently working on a piece of nonfiction so that you can specifically conference with those students. In that way you can find someone to share how their illustrations are helping their nonfiction writing.
- Gather students and have someone share a diagram they created or added to after the mini-lesson today. If you don't have anyone prepared to share, then ask someone who is writing nonfiction to show their story and have the class brainstorm diagrams that might be helpful to add to the piece.

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