

Lesson: Readers Need Strategies for Reading Nonfiction Books (This is meant to be only an introductory lesson to nonfiction. Your Nonfiction Unit of Study will be where you will go into more depth about specific strategies.)

Subject Area: Reading

Common Core Standards Covered:

Supplies Needed:

- Nonfiction book of choice that is well above grade level, but has several pictures and diagrams, a table of contents, an index and bold words with a glossary to match. (Be sure it is a topic of interest for most of your students. An animal is always a good choice for primary grades.)
- Chart paper titled: Strategies I Can Use for Reading Nonfiction Books
- Markers

Procedure:

- Gather your students in your family room area and show them the difficult book that you've chosen to share today. Discuss the term nonfiction and remind them that these types of books help us to learn new information about a topic.
- Share a few pages that have lots of text and comment about how it looks like it might be written for a much older student.
- Ask them what they already know about the topic and let several students share. After complimenting them about how much they already know, tell them that they've already shown one GREAT strategy for reading nonfiction books – *Think about what you already know about the topic.* Write this on your anchor chart for number one. Discuss how this can be helpful if they see a word they don't know. They might be able to make it match!

- Discuss how readers might not always need to read a nonfiction book from the beginning to the end, like they would need to do with a fiction book (although they certainly can!). Nonfiction books can be used to find out pieces of information that are needed to answer questions or just to learn some new facts about a topic.
- Open the book to the Table of Contents and show this to the students. Ask them if they know what information it shares, accept answers and approximations and then discuss how it should be used. Let them know that they could use this to pick something specific about the topic to learn more about. Add this to your anchor chart – *Use the Table of Contents to find something you want to know more about.*
- Go through each of the text features above in the same way – showing the students what it looks like in the book and discussing how to use those items to learn something new from the nonfiction book.
- Here are some more possible sentences for your anchor chart:
  - *Look at the pictures to understand the topic better.*
  - *Use the diagrams to learn about the parts of the topic.*
  - *Use the index to find where to find answers to specific questions I might have.*
  - *Find the bold words/important words and use the glossary to find out what they mean.*
- If your students are ready, you can extend this lesson with more involved nonfiction text features such as tables, graphs and charts.
- Display your anchor chart on the wall for students to refer to as they read nonfiction books and also to reference as your students are learning about new topics in science or social studies.

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