Stretching Your Child’s Understanding

Nonfiction Questions

Nonfiction contains facts, information, real places, and even numbers like dates and measurements. Your child should think about trying to teach the main topic to someone else. If your child can’t teach or share what he/she read, then you should have them go back and reread the text. Here are some sample questions to ask your reader at home before, during, and after reading the text. Feel free to ask other questions as well!

Before Reading

• What questions do you have about this topic?
• What connections can you make to this text?
• What would you like to learn?
• What do you already know about _________?
• What clues does the title give you about the story?
• Is this text fiction or nonfiction? How do you know?

During Reading

• What is the main topic of this text?
• What new words did you learn from reading this text?
• What questions do you have about this topic?
• What connections can you make to this text?
• What do you understand from what you just read?

After Reading

• What is the main topic of this text?
• What new words did you learn from reading this text?
• Why do you think the author wrote this text?
• What questions do you have about this topic?
• What connections can you make to this text?
• What text features helped you understand this topic? (Photographs, illustrations, charts, graphs, map, glossary, table of contents, index)
• What evidence or details does the author use to support the main idea of this text?
• What was the author’s purpose for writing this text?
• Can you summarize what you just read into only one or two sentences?
• Does the title of the story help you know the main idea? Explain why or why not.