

# Appendix

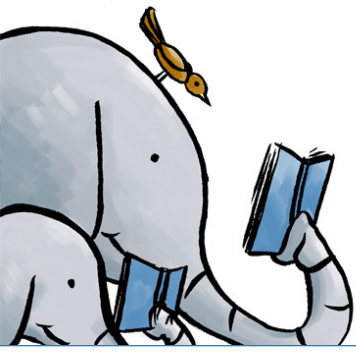
# Tune In!

This certificate is presented to:

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To celebrate your participation  
in the Tune In program!





# Growing readers!

Parent tips for raising strong readers and writers  
from Reading Rockets



## Reading Aloud: Fiction Books

### The basics

- Take your time and talk about the story and pictures with your child.
- Ask your child questions and let your child ask questions.
- Read with expression to create excitement.
- You don't need to read every word. Keeping your child interested is the goal.

### Try “think alouds”

When you share books with your children, they are learning to think and act like good readers — without even knowing it! You can help them get even more from reading time when you talk to them as you read.

Children learn when they can make connections between what they hear and what they know. One method you can use to help make these connections is called a think aloud, where you talk through your thoughts as you read. Here are three ways to use think alouds, with examples from some of our favorite kids' books.

#### Connect the book to your child's own life experience

Example: *A River Dream* by Allen Say

“This book reminds me of the time my father took me fishing. Do you remember the time we went fishing?”

#### Connect the book to other books they have read

Example: *Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters* by John Steptoe

“This story reminds me of Cinderella. Both stories are about sisters. Do you know any other stories about nice and mean sisters? Let's keep reading to find out other ways the stories are similar.”

#### Connect the book to big ideas/lessons

Example: *Stellaluna* by Janell Cannon

“This story helps me understand that we are all the same in many ways, but it's our differences that make us special.”

Modeling these types of connections will help young readers know how to do it when they read alone!



# Growing readers!

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## Reading Aloud: Nonfiction Books

### The basics

- Wonder out loud. As you are reading (or afterward), talk about facts you find interesting or questions you have.
- Explore the pictures and other graphics in the book, such as charts and diagrams.
- Don't be afraid to jump around, reading pages that especially interest your child. You don't have to read a nonfiction book straight through.

### Getting the most out of nonfiction reading time

Nonfiction books give kids a chance to learn new concepts and vocabulary, as well as broaden their view of the world. Here's how to take a "book walk" with a new nonfiction book and how to model active reading.

#### Take a "book walk"

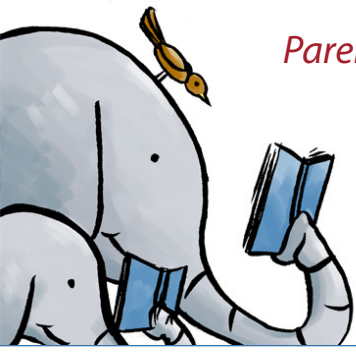
One great way to make predictions about an unfamiliar nonfiction text is to take a "walk" through the book before reading. By looking closely together at the front and back cover, the index, table of contents, the glossary, and the photographs or other images, readers can start to get a sense about the topic. This scanning and skimming helps set the expectation for the reading. Take the time to walk through the book before starting to read.

#### Encourage questions

A second way to develop more understanding with nonfiction books is to encourage your child to be an active reader who asks lots of questions. Parents can model these behaviors by talking or thinking out loud as you turn the pages of the book. This is a helpful way for your child to see and hear what a successful reader does when faced with difficult or unfamiliar topics.

For example, "When I looked at this photograph, I asked myself, 'Where is Antarctica? Is that the same place as the South Pole?' Then talk together about how and what you would need to do to find the answer to the questions. This will reinforce that many questions can be answered by reading a text closely and by paying attention to captions and picture titles. Some children enjoy writing their questions on sticky notes and working to answer them during the reading.

**Previewing a text and asking questions are two terrific ways to navigate nonfiction texts. Enjoy spending more time with some fascinating informational books!**



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Brought to you by Reading Rockets, Colorín Colorado and LD OnLine

**Literacy in the Sciences:** Activity No. 14

## How to Read Nonfiction Text

Kids love to read about real people, places, and events. Nonfiction books present real information in engaging and interesting ways. However, most kids read a lot more fiction than nonfiction, so spend some extra time helping your reader learn how to navigate a nonfiction book.

### Talk about nonfiction

Begin by explaining that the book you're about to share is nonfiction. That means that the book will give us information that is true. The book will be organized around a specific topic or idea, and we may learn new facts through reading. Some kids even enjoy sorting their home libraries into fiction and nonfiction books. This simple categorization task helps your child understand the difference between fiction and nonfiction.

### Look at the parts

Most good nonfiction books will have helpful features that are not a part of most fiction books. These parts include a table of contents, an index, a glossary, photographs and charts with captions, and a list of sources. Share the purpose of the features with your reader.

- **Table of Contents:** Located at the front of a book, the table of contents displays a list of the big ideas within the book and where to find them.
- **Index:** An index is an alphabetical list of almost everything covered within the book, with page numbers. Readers can use the index to look up specific terms or concepts and go right to the specific information they're looking for.
- **Glossary:** Located at the back of the book, a glossary contains key words that are related to the topic and their definitions. These definitions provide more information about new vocabulary words.
- **Captions:** Captions are usually right under photographs, figures, maps, and charts. Captions give a quick summary of what information is presented in the graphic.
- **Photos and Charts:** A lot of information can be found by "reading" the charts and photos found within nonfiction text. Readers will first need to figure out what information is presented. Then they'll need to discover how to navigate the information. Some charts use clear labels, others require more careful examination. Help your reader learn more about the different ways information can be displayed.

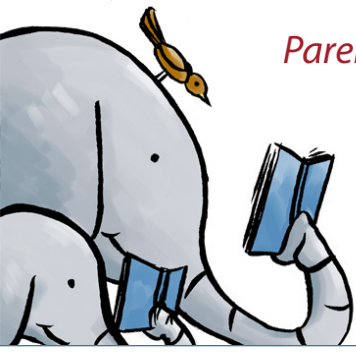
### Be the reading boss

Nonfiction books do not have to be read from cover to cover. Readers can use the table of contents and index to jump right to the information they are most interested in. In that way, they are the "reading boss" of that book! However, if your reader wants to read from cover to cover, encourage him to use the table of contents to understand how the book is organized. "First we will learn about the different types of frogs. Then we'll learn where they can live, what they eat, and how they survive." Passages from the book can be reread as often as necessary until your child understands what is written. You can refer to pictures, charts and tables over and over again as well.

As natural learners, young readers are drawn to books that give information about something or explain something they've always wondered about. With a little help and guidance about reading nonfiction, you can feel good about introducing your child to a new world of information.

Reading Rockets, Colorín Colorado, and LD OnLine are national education services of WETA, the flagship public broadcasting station in Washington, D.C.





Parent tips for raising strong readers and writers

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## Summer Literacy Challenge!

For most parents, it's a challenge to keep kids reading and writing all summer. Suddenly 10 weeks of summer can feel like a very long time! We've got a summer literacy challenge for you and your child. It's modest enough to be manageable –pick just one thing a week to kick start your week's literacy adventures. But it's also challenging enough to include a wide range of literacy fun for the whole family.

- ✓ **Investigate your public library's summer reading program.** Most libraries offer a special program or two during the summer, including puppet shows, book authors and children's storytellers. Most are free of charge.
- ✓ **Extend your reading circle.** We often find ourselves checking out the same types of books over and over again. This week's challenge is to bring a new type of book into the house. Consider fantasy or science fiction, historical fiction, poetry, biography, or an informational book.
- ✓ **Listen up!** Audiobooks are a great way to engage readers and can introduce students to books above their reading level. Many libraries have audiobooks available for check out, and an Internet search can turn up several sites, including [Speakaboos.com](http://Speakaboos.com), that offer free audio books for children.
- ✓ **Make your own audio book!** Most phones and computers have simple recording apps on them which are perfect for making homemade audio books! Have your child make up a story, or reread a favorite loved book. The recordings will be priceless!
- ✓ **Go wordless.** Wordless picture books are told entirely through their illustrations — they are books without words, or sometimes just a few words. Grab a few wordless books the next time you're at the library and have fun "reading" different versions of the same story. The language and the conversation will inspire you!
- ✓ **Visit a museum, online!** You'll be surprised by how much you can explore without leaving your house. One example is the Smithsonian Institution Kids site. It's complete with offerings from Art to Zoo, for kids and students of all ages.
- ✓ **Pack in a whole adventure!** Find FREE themed reading adventure packs that encourage hands-on fun and learning, centered around paired fiction and nonfiction books. Visit Reading Rockets and search Adventure Pack.
- ✓ **Point, shoot, and write.** Most families have access to a digital camera, iPad or camera phone. Snap some photos and then encourage your child to write a silly caption for each photo. Not feeling that ambitious? Cut out some pictures from a magazine or the newspaper and have your child write original captions for those.
- ✓ **Mix up the media.** Your child has read every Clifford book on the shelf. But has she heard Clifford author Normal Bridwell talk about writing? Explore author interviews from over 100 authors on Reading Rockets Author Interview page. We'll bet you can't watch just one.
- ✓ **Write it down.** Encourage your child to keep a simple journal or summer diary. Track interesting things like the number of fireflies seen in one minute, the number of mosquito bites on a leg, or the different types of food that can go on the grill. Each entry is a chance to be creative!

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