



Questions to Help Students Understand Nonfiction Texts

All Grades

- What is this book about?
- What is the main idea of this book? Give examples from the text.
- What did you learn from this book? Can you share some examples?
- What are the new and important words you learned?
- Did the author make you want to learn more about this topic? If yes, how did s/he do that?

Grade 2 and up

- How did the author hook readers at the beginning?
- Is there anything about how the author has organized the text that makes it easier to read?
- How do photos, illustrations, diagrams, charts, or maps help you understand the information?
- Does the author include text features? If so, how do they help you?

Grade 3 and up

- Does this book have a narrative or expository writing style? Explain your rationale.
- How does the book's format help you understand the information?
- How would you describe the voice of the writing? Can you spot any words or punctuation choices that helped the author create that voice?
- Does the text's voice seem to match the style of the artwork? Explain your rationale.
- Does the book have a satisfying ending? If so, what technique(s) did the author employ to make it that way?

Grade 4 and up

- What is the book's text structure? Explain your rationale.
- What is the book's point of view? Explain your rationale.
- Does the author use comparisons? If so, give some examples. How do they help to make an idea easier to understand?
- Does the author use strong verbs? If so, give some examples. Why do you think they chose those verbs?
- Does the author use sensory details? If so, give some examples. Why do you think they included them?

Grade 5 and up

- Does the author use short sentences, long sentences, or a combination of both? How do the author's choices affect the way you read the text?
- Does the author include sentence fragments or questions in the text? If so, why do you think they made that choice?
- Does the author include exclamation points, parentheses, or dashes in the text? If so, why do you think they made that decision?