



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 are the hard or important words?

Grade 2 and up

- Is there anything about how the author has organized the text that makes it easier to read?
- How do pictures, artwork, 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

- Is the writing formal or conversational? How did the author make it that way?
- What one word would you use to describe the voice of the writing? Give examples of language that helps to create that voice.
- Does the author have a point of view? Is he/she trying to convince you of something?

Grade 4 and up

- 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 he/she chose those verbs?
- Does the author use sensory details? If so, give some examples. Why do you think he/she included them?
- Does the author repeat words or phrases? If so, how does that affect the text?
- What is the text structure of this book?

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 he/she does that?
- Does the author include exclamation points, parentheses, or dashes in the text? If so, why do you think he/she did that?