



Grade 1 Reading Unit 2: Nonfiction

In this unit, your child will be immersed in the genre of nonfiction. He or she will learn to adjust previous reading strategies, as well as develop new strategies for reading nonfiction. First grade readers take a learning stance to nonfiction books and use text features to question the text in order to learn from the author and illustrator.

The skills your child will develop in this unit are:

- Understanding the purpose of reading nonfiction
- Developing an understanding of nonfiction text genres (all about, how-to, biography)
- Using nonfiction text features (headings, sections, table of contents, index, glossary, photos) to question and learn
- Identifying what the text is mostly about
- Visualizing to improve understanding
- Using tricky word strategies to figure out unknown/content specific words
- Jotting down notes while reading (questions, new ideas, reactions)

Questions to ask as your child is reading at home:

- What is this author trying to teach you about (topic)?
- How can nonfiction books look different from one another?
- How is this writer using text features to teach you? Is it working?
- What strategies can you use when you come to an unknown word?
- What do you visualize as you read the author's words?

Some books your child will enjoy in class include:

- What Are Light Waves? by Robin Johnson
- Bugs! Bugs! Bugs! by Jennifer Dessin
- Seedlings Nonfiction Series by Creative Education
- Sensing Light and Sound Jennifer Boothroyd

Enjoy reading the fiction and nonfiction books your child is bringing home and continue talking about the books. Ask your child to show you how he or she uses the text features and pictures to get ready to read a new nonfiction book. As your child develops questions about a topic, take the opportunity to read more texts or digital sources to help your child connect asking questions and following up with more reading.