

Talking about books: Non-fiction



Predicting

Before reading

- What subject do you think this book is about?
- What do you already know about this subject? What would you like to find out more about?
- Why do you think the author wrote this book?
- Who might find this information useful?

During reading

- Look at the heading and pictures. What do you think this section will be about?
- Where in the book would you look for information on this topic? What can you use to help you find this information?
- Can you think of any extra information that might help someone who wants to do this experiment/follow these instructions/find out about this subject?

Questioning and clarifying

- Does it matter in which order you read this text?
- Why do you think the author included this piece of information here?
- Did anything puzzle you about this book/section?
- Can you identify what type of text this is? How do you know? What evidence can you find to back this up?
- Is there any technical language that you need to check the meaning of?
- Can you replace one of the sub-headings with one of your own?
- Why does the author use pictures and captions?

Imagining

- How else could you organise this text?
- Can you draw a diagram to sum up what the text tells us about a topic?
- Can you show the information on a topic in the form of a mind map?
- How could you use the information in this book?
- What could you do to the text to make is easier to read?

Summarising

- What is the main subject of the text?
- What do you think is the purpose of this text?
- What is the key message? Sum it up in three sentences.
- Are some ideas in the text more important than others? Which are the most important ones?
- Has reading the text changed your opinion? How?
- What do you think the author's point of view is?
- Can you identify any techniques the author uses to get you to agree with them?
- Choose one paragraph and try to make as short a sentence as possible, summing up what it says.
- How could you adapt the information in this book/section for a younger audience?