

Non-Fiction Essential Questions



When you are reading informational, non-fiction material be sure to periodically stop and ask yourself these three key questions...

“WHAT SURPRISED ME IN THIS TEXT?”

“WHAT DID THE AUTHOR THINK I ALREADY KNEW?”

“WHAT CHALLENGED, CHANGED, OR CONFIRMED WHAT I ALREADY KNEW?”

These questions help you dig deeper into the text by enabling you to think critically about what you read.



Share your thoughts with sentence starters:

- ✓ At first I thought...but...
- ✓ I had to re-think...
- ✓ My thoughts changed when...
- ✓ I changed my mind about...
- ✓ I firmly believe that...

- ✓ I was shocked about...
- ✓ I never thought that...
- ✓ I never knew that...
- ✓ Really?!

- ✓ I did not know that...
- ✓ The author thought I knew that...
- ✓ I was confused by...

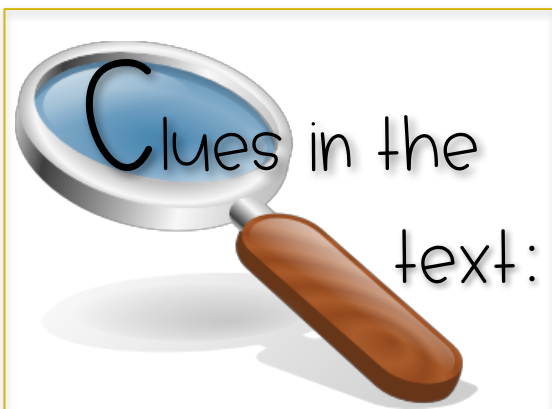
Notice & Note: Non-Fiction Signposts



When you are reading and the author shows you a difference between what you know and what is actually happening in the text, or you see a difference between two more more things in the text, stop and ask yourself...

“WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE AND WHY DOES IT MATTER?”

The answer to this question can help you notice details you didn't see before, make a **COMPARISON/CONTRAST** observation, make an **INFERENCE**, understand the **AUTHOR'S PURPOSE**, or see **CAUSE & EFFECT**.



- ✓ Something in the text is different than you expected to read. (Think of where you used "The 3 BIG Questions"!)
- ✓ Something in the text contradicts what you read previously.

♥ These are just some clues you may find in your reading to help you recognize Contrasts & Contradictions. ♥

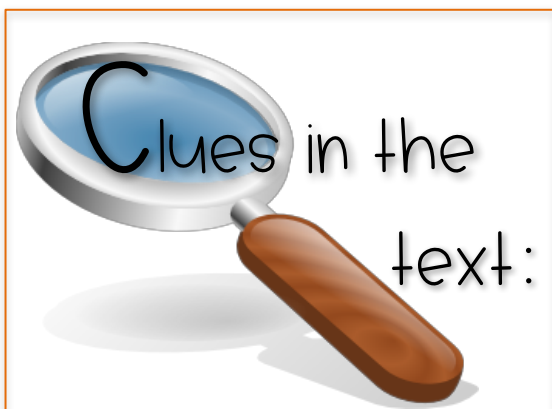
Notice & Note: Non-Fiction Signposts



When you are reading and you notice the author uses wording that seems extreme, exaggerated, or leaves no doubt about their feelings, stop and ask yourself...

“WHY DID THE AUTHOR SAY IT LIKE THAT?”

The answer to this question can tell you about the author's **POINT OF VIEW** or **PURPOSE**. Or you may find it was worded that way to make a point about the subject.



- ✓ The author uses overly positive or overly negative wording.
- ✓ The author uses terms meant to evoke strong feeling.

♥ These are just some clues you may find in your reading to help you recognize Extreme/Absolute Language Signposts.♥

Notice & Note: Non-Fiction Signposts



When you are reading and the author uses specific numbers, number words, or amounts, stop and ask yourself...

“WHY DID THE AUTHOR USE THOSE NUMBERS OR AMOUNTS IN THE TEXT?”

The answers to this question will help you **DRAW CONCLUSIONS**, make a **COMPARISON**, find **FACTS**, discover **EVIDENCE**, and make **INFERENCES**.



- ✓ Look for large numbers in the text.
- ✓ Notice numbers associated with population, costs, debt, or affected groups.

♥ These are just some clues you may find in your reading to help you recognize Numbers & Stats. ♥

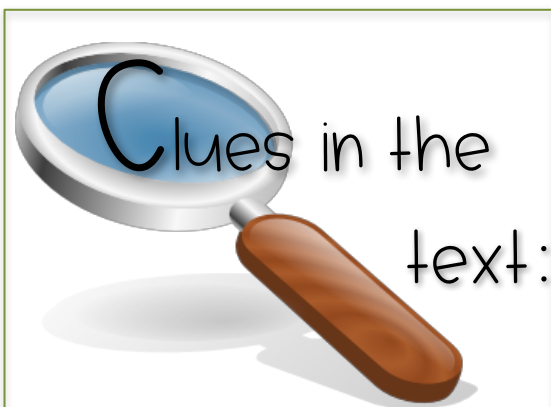
Notice & Note: Non-Fiction Signposts



When you are reading and the author uses a quotation from another writer, authority, or document, stop and ask yourself...

“WHY DID THE AUTHOR QUOTE THIS PERSON OR SOURCE?”

The answers to this question can help you learn about the **AUTHOR'S PURPOSE** or a **PERSPECTIVE/BIAS** the author possesses. It may also help you draw **CONCLUSIONS** or make a **GENERALIZATION**.



- ✓ The author uses a quote from a knowledgeable source or someone informed about the subject
- ✓ The author quotes a document that aligns with their perspective

♥ These are just some clues you may find in your reading to help you recognize Quoted Words.♥

Notice & Note: Non-Fiction Signposts



When you are reading and the author uses a word or phrase you do not know, stop and ask yourself...

“DO I RECOGNIZE THIS WORD FROM SOMEWHERE ELSE?”

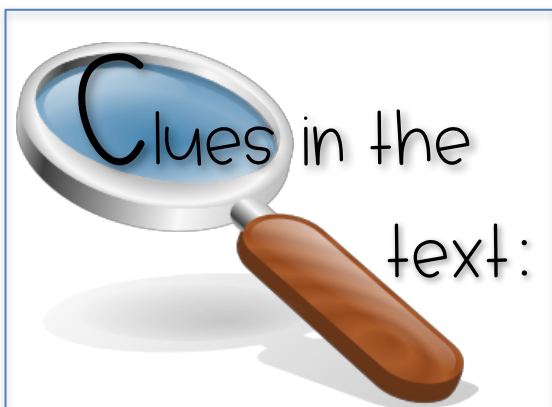
or

“IS THIS TECHNICAL LANGUAGE USED BY EXPERTS ON THIS TOPIC?”

or

“ARE THERE CONTEXT CLUES IN THE PASSAGE TO HELP ME UNDERSTAND THIS WORD?”

The answers to these questions will tell you whether you need to keep reading or stop to look up the word.



- ✓ Words you do not know
- ✓ Phrases/expressions you do not recognize
- ✓ A source is quoted as an expert in their field

♥ These are just some clues you may find in your reading to help you recognize Word Gaps.♥