

# Tips for Success with Informational Text...

From Linda Hoyt

## **Word Prediction**

When students take time to predict words they expect to encounter in a selection, they activate prior knowledge, stimulate their awareness of the topic and build a sense of intrinsic wonder.

## *The Steps*

### ***1. Set the Stage:***

Explain that prior knowledge, the information they already have on a topic, is one of the most powerful tools they have as readers. Word prediction is one way to activate that prior knowledge and prepare ourselves to think deeply and remember more.

### ***2. Demonstrate:***

Model how to quickly skim and scan a page, sharing your observations about photographs, headings and so on. Then, close the magazine and jot down 3-5 words that you would expect to see in an article on this topic. With each word, tell the students why you have selected it. Be sure to write your words in a visible place such as on the overhead or on a chart.

### ***3. Provide Guided Practice:***

Have students work independently or with partners to skim an article, then close the magazine and begin predicting words. You may want to serve as their secretary, recording word predictions on a class chart. It also works well to have students work in teams or to record their word predictions in individual writer's notebooks.

### ***4. Share and Reflect:***

Have partners work together to read the article pausing on each page to search for words that were predicted before reading. Treat the discovery of predicted words as a celebration of prior knowledge.

### ***5. Sum It Up:***

Guide the students in talking about Word Prediction and how it helped them as a reader.

## **A Possible Format for Recording Word Predictions:**

To take best advantage of Word Prediction, guide students in quickly skimming through an article paying close attention to photographs and headings. Then, have them close their magazines and begin predicting words they will expect to appear in the article. It is important to record their predictions on a group chart or in individual writer's notebooks. As students read, challenge them to watch for their words and check off those that appear in the article.

Word Predictions

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We found it on page

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