

# Parent School

(p-ayr-int skool) ← pronunciation guide

Newsletter #5 -

close-up →

## Comprehension Strategy: Determining Importance in Non-fiction



...A Monthly Parent Education Newsletter to help explain the what, why and how of your child's new reading vocabulary.

Children learn to read and then they read to learn. The features of nonfiction help students understand the important information in the text, magazine, newspaper, textbook, etc.

<p><b>Nonfiction Feature #1: Photographs &amp; Captions</b></p> <p>Nothing helps a child more than the pictures and illustrations used in the text. A real photograph and a caption describing it helps put the content of the information in real world context.</p>	<p><b>Nonfiction Feature #2: Table of Contents</b></p> <p>You can start reading from anywhere in the book and that section will make sense even if you haven't read the book from the beginning, look at the Table of Contents to preview each section.</p>	<p><b>Nonfiction Feature #3: Pronunciation Guides</b></p> <p>This feature helps students with unfamiliar vocabulary in the text. It helps the child understand difficult content words, and spells out the word phonetically inside a set of parentheses.</p>
<p><b>Nonfiction Feature #4: Cut-aways and Close-ups</b></p> <p>The clipart used in the upper right side of this newsletter shows an example of a close-up feature. It shows more detail or the inside view of the important aspect of the information.</p>	<p><b>Nonfiction Feature #5: Glossary</b></p> <p>The glossary is like a special little dictionary containing important vocabulary words from the book, and usually found at the end of the book, with easy to understand definitions.</p>	<p><b>Nonfiction Feature #5: Index</b></p> <p>The index is also found at the end of the book. It lists concept words in alphabetical order, and gives the page numbers where the information can be found.</p>
<p><b>Nonfiction Feature #5: Sidebars</b></p> <p>Sidebars are bullet points of information off to the left or right of the main text area. Sidebars are short with little nuggets of facts and important details.</p>	<p><b>Nonfiction Feature #5: Labels</b></p> <p>Labels are word tags next to important pictures connected with arrows as used above. Labels often identify the smaller parts of a bigger whole as when labeling the different parts of an insect.</p>	<p><b>Nonfiction Feature #5: Headings/Subheadings</b></p> <p>When an author wants to signal that important information is to follow, a heading or subheading is in a bigger, bolder font that the rest of the information as to say: PAY ATTENTION AHEAD.</p>
<p><b>Nonfiction Feature #5: Maps</b></p> <p>Maps are used in nonfiction to show location of events and place in time: examples are ship routes, birthplaces, hurricane paths, street and building locations, amusement park sections, etc.</p>	<p><b>Nonfiction Feature #5: Charts and Graphs</b></p> <p>By including charts and graphs to represent data visually, readers analyze information by comparing it with other important information in an easy to read format - often found in newspapers.</p>	<p><b>Nonfiction Feature #5: Comparisons</b></p> <p>When a nonfiction author wants a reader to understand relationship of size or put information in proportion, an author will use a comparison: A blue whale is as long as three school buses.</p>