

# Supporting Common Core State Standards

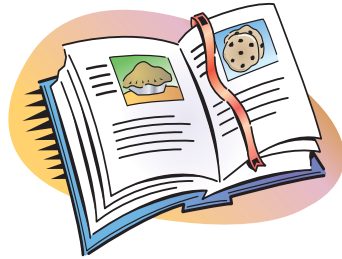
## Informational text: Helping your child 'read to learn'

There's a big difference between *learning to read* and *reading to learn*. That's where informational text comes in. Informational text is simply nonfiction text designed to make the reader look for information, or "read to learn." The Common Core State Standards will expose students to lots of informational text. Your child's teacher will help him develop strategies to read and comprehend it. You can also reinforce these skills at home.

### See the big picture

Before starting to read an assignment, have your child think about what she will be reading. What is the title of the chapter or assignment? Does it offer any clues about the reading?

Look for other clues, too—chapter headings or subheadings, words in **boldface** or *italics*, pictures or graphs. All of these elements will help your child get an idea of the big picture before she starts reading.



### Take notes

Most good students take notes on what they read. Taking notes while reading will make it easier for your child to comprehend and remember information. It will also make reading more active and engaging. Your child should write down:

- **The most important ideas** in the reading assignment (these are usually in **boldface** or *italics*).
- **Any words he doesn't know.** He can then look up the words and write down the definitions.
- **The answers to the questions** at the end of the chapter.

### Make connections

The best way to remember new information is by relating it to something you have already learned. When your child finishes a reading assignment, have her write a short paragraph answering questions like these:

- **What was the main topic** of this chapter? How is it similar to something else I have learned?
- **What key ideas** did I already know?
- **What did I learn** that was new to me?

### Still can't figure it out?

Despite his best efforts, your child may have trouble understanding something he reads. And while your child's first reaction may be to quit, suggest these ideas instead:

- **Reread.** Have your child go back and read the confusing sentence or paragraph. Can he put into words what's confusing? Sometimes, that will help him figure it out.
- **Skip it for now.** If he doesn't understand a sentence or paragraph, the next section may make things clearer.
- **Read something else** on the same topic. The Internet might have an article on the same subject that could help clarify it.
- **Ask the teacher** for help if the trouble continues.