

Before beginning the unit of study, *Becoming Experts: Reading Nonfiction*, OR at some point during the unit, assess students' thinking about nonfiction by conducting a read aloud, in which you stop at certain points to ask students to jot down their thinking. Collect their notes when you are finished to assess their thinking.

Materials Needed:

- *Sea Turtles* by Kevin Henkes (read ahead of time for pronunciation of terms in parentheses)
- Sticky notes with prompts on pages in the book as indicated by the examples
- For each child: a clipboard holding a plain piece of paper with three sticky notes (labeled 1, 2, 3) attached to it. When students receive their clipboards, instruct students to write small initials on each post-it in the corner. This will make it easier to analyze their responses later.

Directions:

- Place the appropriate sticky notes in the read aloud on the appropriate pages. Gather students as you would during a typical read aloud, and provide each child with a clipboard and pencil. You may want to also have a similar sheet under the document camera so that you can point to the appropriate sticky note as needed.
- Read aloud the story, stopping at each sticky note and giving the students a few minutes to talk or jot their thinking (depending on the prompt). All prompts should be asked at the end of the page on which it is placed. The turn-and-talks should be brief and are placed to break the text up and encourage students to think about the text. **Begin the read aloud by guiding students to look at the cover and title page.**

Part 1: Turn and Talk (Read aloud the first page. At the end of the first page, stop and ask students to turn and talk briefly.)

What might this book teach us about sea turtles? Talk to your partner.

Part 2: Stop and Jot: (Say: "Let's read the next section." Read the next section aloud that begins "The first sea turtles lived about 200 million years ago . . ."; read 6 pages, stopping at the page that ends with "Their eyes and ears must always be on the alert.") Stop reading and say:

Jot a heading that describes what this section that we just read is mostly about Jot that on post-it 1.

Part 3: Stop and Jot: (Read aloud the next section, stopping on the page that ends with "They mate in warm sea water.")

What are some questions you have after reading this section? Jot them on post-it 2.

Part 4: Turn and Talk (Read aloud through the page that ends with "In many cases it is against the law to hunt sea turtles or steal their eggs . . .")

Turn and talk with your partner about what this section is teaching you.

Part 5 Stop and Jot: (Read aloud the rest of the book)

What is the main topic of this book? What is it mainly teaching us about sea turtles? Jot that on post-it 3.