A Successful Launch: Comprehension Strategies for Reading NonFiction Texts

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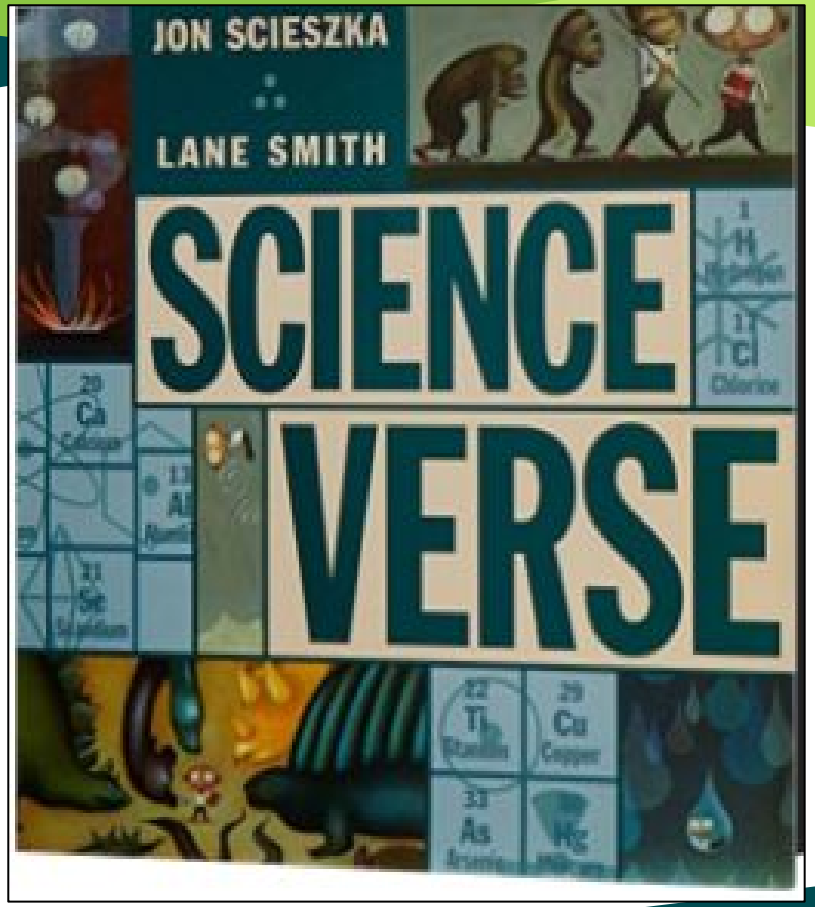
http://tinyurl.com/JM-Signposts



ASTRONAUT STOPPING BY A PLANET ON A SNOWY EVENING

Which world this is I do not know.
It's in our solar system though.
I'm thinking that it might be Mars,
Because it has that reddish glow.

But you know it could be Venus.
And if that's true, then just between us,
It might be wise to leave before
Any locals might have seen us.

Could be Pluto. Might be Neptune.
Don't they both have more than one moon?
I'm running out of oxygen.
I'd better figure this out soon.

Yes space is lovely, dark and deep.
For one mistake I now do weep:
In science class I was asleep.
In science class I was asleep . . .

Learning Space

Episode 25: Next Generation Science Standards

Objectives

- Become aware of research findings regarding trends in reading nonfiction
- Learn some effective strategies that can be used for non-fiction texts (signposts)
- Explore specific signposts in nonfiction that help students navigate the text.

“We are required to read beyond the four corners of the text; we are required to let nonfiction intrude; we are required to wonder what it means on the page, in our lives, and in the world.” ~ **Beers and Probst**

Research

Trend one: Trade book reading declines across the grades.
Trend two: Nonfiction reading is minimal.
Trend three: Lower-performing students are taught lower-level skills.

Teacher oriented instruction vs. Student oriented instruction

More research...

Nearly a billion people will enter the 21st century unable to read a book or sign their names and ⅔ of them are WOMEN.

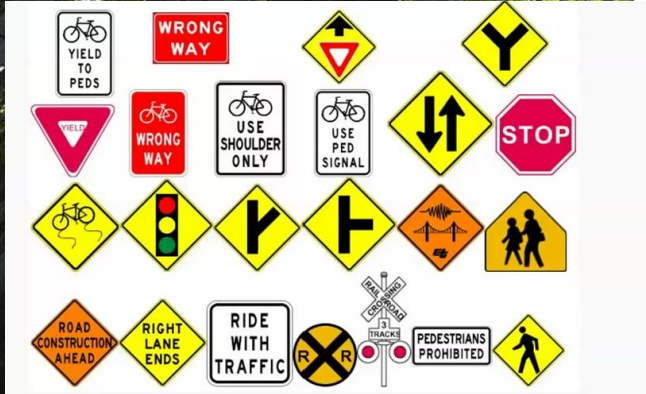
Literacy and Juvenile Court

⅔ of students who cannot read proficiently by the end of the 4th grade will end up in jail or on welfare.

http://tinyurl.com/Illiteracy-Statistics-Kahoot

“Nonfiction signposts alert us to some significant moments in most nonfiction.”

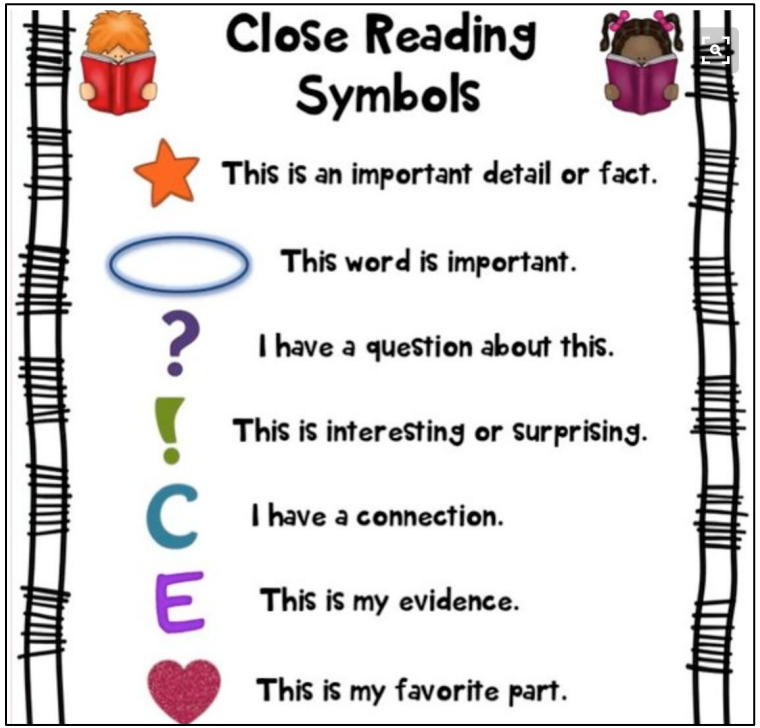
Navigating the Text



Adopt a Questioning Stance	Notice and Note These Signposts	Use these Fix-Up Strategies	To develop...
What surprised you? What did the author think you already knew? What changed, challenged, or confirmed what you already knew?	• Contrasts and Contradictions • Extreme or Absolute Language • Numbers and Stats • Quoted Words • Word Gaps	❖ Possible Sentences ❖ KWL 2.0 ❖ Somebody Wanted But So ❖ Syntax Surgery ❖ Sketch to Stretch ❖ Genre Reformulation ❖ Poster	understanding

Marking the Text

*Sample Codes only - Reader decides which codes to use



It All Started with Sputnik

An eminent space historian looks back on the first 50 years of space exploration.

By

Roger D. Launius

Air & Space Magazine, July 1, 2007

With the launch of a basketball-sized satellite on October 4, 1957, the Soviet Union ushered in the "Space Age" and changed the world. Sputnik 1, launched from Soviet Union's rocket test site near Tyuratam, Kazakhistan, was a mere 184-pound "hunk of iron almost anybody could launch," as u.S. Navy admiral characterized it, but it carried on its orbital trajectory[1] a symbol far beyond its size. It was a first step beyond this planet, and we have never known a time since when there has not been some human-made object in Earth orbit. It reversed the image of the Soviet Union as a backwater and placed the country on an international footing near to that of the United States. It also established spaceflight as evidence of progress and forward thinking among the nations of the world. Finally, it suggested to many that the destiny of humanity rested in the cosmos rather than on Earth. Belief in that destiny, for all its elusiveness, has motivated tens of thousands of people over the last 50 years to invent the machines and instruments and chart the course for planetary exploration and, perhaps, migration.

The generation of americans who were in school during that momentous shift in priorities embraced space travel as a symbol of progress. Rased on visions of human colonies on the moon and Mars, and great starships plying galactic oceans--brought to the public by the likes of media magnate Walt Disney and German rocketeer Wernher von Braun--they saw prospects of a bright, limitless future beyond a confining, overcrowded, and resource-depleted Earth. One of the visionaries thrilled by Sputnik was 14-year-old Homer Hickam, who grew up to be a NASA engineer and author of the memoir *Rocket Boys* (which began as a short piece in *Air & Space/Smithsonian* magazine and was later adapted for the 1999 feature film *October Sky.)* He watched "the bright little ball, moving majestically across the narrow star field between the ridgelines" of his home in Coalwood, West Virginia. It inspired him, and many like him, to devote their lives to the quest for space. Hickam recalled seeing it in the nighttime sky over his West Virginia home. "I stared at it with no less rapt attention than if it had been God Himself in a golden chariot riding overhead. It soared what seemed to me inexorable and dangerous purpose, as if there were no power in the universe that could stop it." Reflecting later that night on sputnik, Homer Hickam decided that he wanted to be a part of what he considered a noble dream of space exploration.

The first 15 years of the Space Age proved to be some of the most exciting of my lifetime--though I was probably four or five years old before I realized that rockets were not supposed to explode during launch. From the repeated failures of those early launch vehicles, we learned that spaceflight was not going to be easy; perhaps that is why the term "rocket science" entered our lexicon[2] as measure of difficulty. But the pace of discovery in the early years was also dizzying. On January 31, 1958, just four months after Sputnik 1 caused a sensation, the United States launched its first Earth satellite--Explorer--which documented the existence of what

Let's review the strategies

Signpost 1
Contrasts and Contradictions

Signpost 2
Extreme or Absolute Language

Signpost 3
Numbers and Stats

Signpost 4
Quoted Words

Signpost 5
Word Gaps

Assessing vs Grading

Formative Assessment

Reflection

Thanks!

Any questions?

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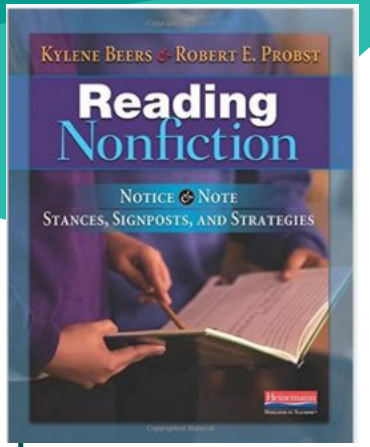
Credits



Special thanks to all the people who made and released these **resources**:

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