*Session 13*

**Focus**: Good readers can find the topic (what the whole section is about), subtopic, and details.

**Materials**: student’s books (make sure they have some nonfiction!), pencils, journal or stickies

**Genre:** Non-fiction

**Before Reading** **Mentor says**: Last week we practiced asking and answering questions while we explored nonfiction texts. Today we are going look for the topic, subtopic, and details that connect them.

Have you ever read a book about an animal? A habitat? A place?

The topic is usually what the whole section or chapter is about. If you were reading a book about animals in Africa, one of the topics might be lions. The book probably gave you a lot of information about that animal. But that information was nicely organized into subtopics. A subtopic is an idea that supports the topic. For example, if I was reading a section about lions, the topic would be lions and a subtopic would be “lions live in packs.” Another subtopic might be “lions eat meat” and another subtopic might be “lion habitats.” Today we are going to practice recognizing topics, subtopics, and details

Let’s choose a nonfiction book to read together today.

**During Reading**:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| *Prompting questions* | *Writing activity in journal* |
| Can you read the headings and subheadings?What’s the topic of this section?What’s the subtopic on this page?Tell me what it’s mostly about.What details support that subtopic? | Have the student make a table in their journal:Book Title: Plants

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Topic** | **Subtopic** | **Details** |
| Cactus | Animals like to live in them | - Different animals like rats, birds, and bats live in the cactus |
| Cactus | Cacti are really big | -They can grow to 108 feet tall |

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**After Reading**: Great job! Remember, it is important to have an idea of the structure of a nonfiction book and to know which information supports which topic. By keeping a chart like this, you can keep track of the information the author is presenting.

Can you remind me how nonfiction books are organized? Can you tell me what you should be noticing when you read nonfiction books?

**Closing**: Thank you for working with me today. I enjoyed our time together and I am so proud of the work you are sharing with me. I will return next (day of the week) to work with you. Please remember the following:

1. Fill out the teacher/mentor communication log
2. Check the school calendar for upcoming events
3. Check your personal calendar to determine scheduling conflicts. Remember, students are eager await your arrival and their mentoring time with you.
4. If you have any questions or concern, please share them with a school employee (teacher, counselor, assistant principal or principal, etc.) before leaving the building.