

The 3 Big Questions for Nonfiction:

1. What surprised me?
 - a. New info
 - b. Suspicious info
 - c. Clarifying info
 - d. A different perspective
2. What did the author think I already knew?
 - a. Vocabulary
 - b. Visualizing information
 - c. Prior knowledge
 - d. Sequencing
 - e. Cause and effect
3. What changed, challenged, or confirmed what I already knew?

Contrasts and Contradictions

When an author presents something that contrasts with or contradicts what you know, think, or have experienced, stop and ask yourself,

“What’s the contrast/contradiction, and why does it matter?”

The answer will help you compare and contrast, understand the purpose, see details that connect to the main idea, make an inference or generalization, and/or notice cause and effect.

Extreme or Absolute Language

When an author uses language that leaves no doubt, exaggerates, or seems so extreme it might be untrue, stop and ask yourself,

“Why would the author use this language?”

The answer will tell you something about the author’s point of view and purpose.

Numbers and Stats

When an author uses specific numbers, number words, or amounts, stop and ask yourself,

“Why did the author use these numbers or stats?”

The answer will help you come to a conclusion, make a comparison or inference, see details, find facts, or recognize evidence.

Quoted Words

When an author cites other's words or quotes a voice of authority or a personal perspective, stop and ask yourself,

“Why was this person quoted/cited, and what did it add?”

The answer will help you recognize the author's purpose, make inferences, draw conclusions, and identify point of view.