Study Guide

Nonfiction
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**Nonfiction - 6B**Nonfiction material contains factual information. It is sometimes a true story, but it is often factual information that is used to educate or inform its audience. Fictional material, in contrast, is created in the author's mind, and its purpose is generally to entertain.

An example of nonfiction material that is told as a story is a biography. A biography tells the story of a person's life, such as George Washington. Examples of nonfiction material that are used to educate are a newspaper and a school textbook.

Nonfiction passages are often filled with details and specific terminology. To keep track of such passages, the student may need to create story maps.

After the student reads a book or passage, ask him or her to sketch the events of the very beginning of the book or passage as he or she visualizes them. Tape the sketch on a large surface such as a wall.

Next, have the student sketch the first main event which occurred in the book or passage. Encourage him or her to create different sketches for each succeeding main event.

Tape the sketches up in clockwise positions starting with the first one at the 1:00 position and proceeding to the final sketch at the 12:00 position. Such a story "map" will help the student recall key details and identify confusing points.

Or, while reading nonfiction, the student could create an outline or list of main events. Often the act of writing helps students collect their thoughts and construct meaning from text with more ease.

**Nonfiction - 6A**A nonfiction passage is a piece of writing that focuses on a topic or subject introduced and presented in the passage. It typically presents facts, examples, and details about the topic. Nonfiction pieces help the student become familiar with various types of reading materials. They will often appear in newspapers, magazines, textbooks, and reference materials.

Reading comprehension is the ability to read a text, understand textual details, make connections among textual details, and construct meaning from the text. Understanding the logic behind an author's purpose, hypothesis, and generalizations are also essential to the reader's comprehension.

Before reading, the student should become acquainted with some basic terms common to the nonfictional genre (style):

Titles, details, and main ideas in nonfictional pieces all revolve around the documented facts and information about the topic.

Drawing conclusions, making generalizations, and making inferences are based upon the data presented. They depict what the author intends for the reader to gather from the text by means of directly/indirectly stated information, prior knowledge (what the reader was aware of prior to reading the text), and personal experiences.

Recognizing irrelevant information, predicting outcomes, and making classifications require the student to use basic comprehension skills to examine the text for information that is either unimportant in the context of the passage, make guesses about future events, or group items or ideas together.

The organization of a passage reveals how the key ideas of a passage are structured.

**Practice:**
To assist the student in engaging and retaining information from a nonfictional piece, the student should develop writing prompts that would encourage others to research information about nonfictional topics. First, the student should decide what topics he or she feels are noteworthy. Then, the student should develop a writing prompt that would spark the interest of other readers. The prompt should highlight the subject by providing any basic information, main ideas, or generalizations. Next, the student should have other readers complete the prompt with their own creative details. Finally, the student should explain the relevance of the topic and the writing prompt. Overall the student should display complete comprehension of the text and show organization when creating the writing prompts.