

## Assessment Checklist for Activate and Connect

These are questions we have asked our students, but you can adapt them to fit your own students' unique needs.

### Expectations for student thinking and learning

- Understand that nonfiction reading is about reading to learn information
- Understand the purpose of text and visual features
- Use text and visual features to gain information
- Listen to the inner voice when meeting new information
- Merge thinking with new information and react to it
- Connect background knowledge to new information
- Recognize that background knowledge may be inaccurate and revise thinking accordingly
- Respond to new learning and merge it with thinking—background knowledge, questions, reactions, opinions

### Questions you can ask yourself to assess student understanding

- Do they understand the purpose of different features?
- Do they use text and visual features to support their understanding?
- Do they use language that shows they have merged their thinking with the new information?
- Are they able to respond and react to new information with questions, comments, etc.?
- Do they connect what they already know to what they are learning to enhance their understanding?
- Are they able to revise and change their thinking when they learn something new?
- Does merging their thinking with the information help them better understand and remember the content?

### Questions students can ask themselves

- Did I pay attention to the features and learn from them?
- Did I listen to the voice in my head as I met new information?
- Did I leave tracks of my thinking when I met new information?
- Did I code the text with an "L" when I learned something new?
- Did I connect what I already know to new information?
- Did I merge my thinking with the information?
- Did I learn something that changed my mind?

### Language of activating background knowledge and connecting to new learning

- "This reminds me of..."
- "I noticed..."
- "I have a connection..."
- "I know..."
- "I never knew..."
- "I learned..."
- "I am surprised..."
- "I can't believe..."
- "Wow!..."
- "Hmmm, interesting..."
- "Maybe if I read on..."
- "This feature helps me understand..."
- "That changes my mind..."