



Getting curious, finding out: reading non-fiction at Level 3

This guide will help you to encourage children to explore and enjoy the DK Super Readers at Level 3. The Level 3 books are perfect for children who can mostly read independently, and who are building up their reading confidence and stamina, but the books are also suitable for older children as a fun source of reading practice, or for fluent younger readers.

Before children read

Involve children in choosing their own books from a selection at Level 3. Giving children as free a choice of reading material as possible is a great way to help them to become more confident, independent readers. When children are interested in a book and have chosen it themselves, their motivation and enjoyment increase.

Start by looking at the cover together, and link it to children's interests and existing knowledge. For instance, if a child chooses *Twisters!*, say, 'Have you ever seen a film of a twister? What was it like? What do you think it would be like if a twister happened here?' If there are particular things the child wants to know about the topic of the book, look out for relevant information together as the child reads.

During reading

At Level 3, children will mostly read silently. Encourage them to pause frequently to talk about what they have read, and explore the pictures together. This makes the reading experience more fun, and it also gives you the opportunity to check that children understand what they are reading.

You could ask children to choose a section of the book that they particularly enjoyed, and read it out loud. This enables you to check their reading fluency. Remind them to use the phonics they know to work out any tricky or unfamiliar words, and if they struggle,

read the word for them and discuss its meaning. Children who struggle to read with pace and expression may also benefit from hearing you read part of the book aloud.

After reading

Look back through the book together, and discuss it. Can the child sum up the main message of the book? What was the most fascinating fact they found out? Would they recommend the book to other people, and why? Check if the child has any unanswered questions about the topic now that they've read the book, and if so, help them to find the answers either in other books or online.

Encourage children to reread the book as often as they want - returning to a well-loved book is a great way of deepening reading skills and increasing children's pleasure in reading.

Children can also answer the quiz questions at the end of each book, or explore the online resources for more fun book-linked activities.

Developing super non-fiction reading skills

At Level 3, children continue to extend and develop their non-fiction reading skills. Here are some ideas for helping them.

- **Summarising what a text is about** Challenge the child to sum up the key information in the whole book or in a section. Make sure they understand the difference between key information and additional details, and encourage them to make their summary of the key points as brief as they can.
- **Identifying chronology and making comparisons** Ask the child to retell part of the book, for example, if they've read *Twisters!*, ask them to explain what happened to Rob and Barney when a twister struck their farm. Encourage them to make comparisons within the book, for instance, can they compare the twister Rob and Barney encountered with other twisters mentioned?
- **Understanding and explaining the sequence of information or events** Extend the retelling exercise by asking children to make a simple timeline showing the order in which events happened, or a flow chart showing how one event led to another.
- **Obtaining information from the illustrations** Encourage children to explore the illustrations and think about how they add to the information conveyed in the words. For example, in *Twisters!*, the illustrations help to give a very clear sense of the size and power of a twister, which reinforces and extends the information given in the words.