



Getting curious, finding out: reading non-fiction at Level 4

This guide gives ideas for supporting children as they read the DK Super Readers at Level 4. The Level 4 books are ideal for children who are confident readers, reading with growing independence and stamina, but the books are also suitable for older children who need to increase their stamina, or for confident younger readers.

Before children read

Encourage children to explore the range of books at Level 4, and choose a book that interests them. This will help them to grow in independence and take control of their own reading - a necessary step towards becoming an expert reader who reads for pleasure as well as for information.

Start by flipping through the book to get a sense of what it's about. For example, if the child chose *Shark Attack!*, ask, 'Do you think this book will be about how scary sharks are? What kinds of information do you think we'll find out?' Make a note of the child's predictions and return to these after reading to see if the book met the child's expectations, or delivered any surprises!

During reading

At Level 4, children will usually read silently and independently. They will still benefit from reading aloud occasionally - not only so that you can check they can read the text fluently, but also so that they can practise reading with pace and expression. If a child struggles with expressive reading, read a passage aloud yourself to model this. You could also read along with the child, taking turns to read a section, and pausing to discuss the information and pictures as you read.

If the child encounters words they don't know, encourage them to use the glossary or a dictionary to find out the meanings. They could keep a list of interesting new words and try using these in their own writing!

After reading

Ask the child what they thought of the book, and encourage them to give reasons for their views. Take turns to find a favourite passage or amazing fact from the book, and explain why you chose it.

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.

- **Quoting text correctly in answers** After reading, ask children factual questions about the book, and encourage them to find the relevant part of the text. Can they show you the words that give the answer?
- **Identifying main ideas and details on a page** Ask the child to pick a favourite part of the book and briefly sum up the main idea of that section. For example, the main idea of page 16 of *Shark Attack!* is that many people are afraid of sharks. Can the child tell you a detail from the section that supports the main idea? For example, on page 16 of *Shark Attack!* we learn that bull sharks like to swim in shallow water, where people also swim.
- **Noticing and comparing how text is structured and presented** Can children find a part of the book that's presented in a particular way for a specific purpose? For example, the map on pages 18-19 of *Shark Attack!* shows the location of fatal shark attacks - a map is a better way of showing this than a paragraph of text would be.
- **Identifying evidence to support a viewpoint** Encourage children to explain the message of the book in their own words. For example, after reading *Shark Attack!*, ask, 'Do you think sharks are more dangerous to humans than humans are to sharks?' Challenge children to explain their views and relate them back to the text, for example, referring to the section 'Sharks Under Attack' to show how sharks are under threat from humans.