Grade 4, Unit 2, Reading the Weather, Reading the World

SESSION 3 HOMEWORK

NOTE-TAKING WITH STRUCTURE IN MIND

Readers, I asked you to take your nonfiction reading baggie home with you tonight so that you could continue to practice the work we did today. I’ve also sent you home with a chart that you might recognize from third grade. I gave you this chart to remind you of ways you might take quick, brief notes as you come to the end of a chunk of text. While you are reading, think about the text’s structure and ask yourself, “How can I organize my notes to mirror the text’s structure?”

Perhaps you’ll be reading about an environmental disaster and what conservationists are doing to solve the problem. You could, for example, make a T-chart labeling one side “problem” and another “solution.” Or you could jot a list of problems and draw arrows pointing toward possible solutions. I bet I’ll see a lot of other formats for quick notes. You might jot boxes and bullets, sketches, T-charts, timelines, or Venn diagrams. You might even invent a creative new way to take notes.

Remember this: be sure your notes somehow match the structure of what you are learning, so they aren’t just one long list of facts. Let the text’s structure guide you. If you need a reminder of some possible text structures, glance at the “Common Nonfiction Text Structures” chart that you have taped into your notebook. You’ll remember most of this chart from third grade.

Also, for the last few days the focus of your nonfiction reading has been on books that are easy reads for you. Starting tomorrow, we are going to tackle more challenging texts. Tonight, don’t forget to look through the assortment of texts in your baggie and select one that you think will push you, will be a challenge for you. You will need to bring that to tomorrow’s minilesson.

