

### Independent Reading

#### Independent Reading Prompts

**Directions:** Remember to record responses to **research reading in the front** of your independent reading journal and responses to **choice reading in the back**. Try to choose a different prompt each time.

Record any new vocabulary in your vocabulary log. Remember, academic vocabulary is recorded in the front, and domain-specific vocabulary (words about the topic) is recorded in the back. Mark vocabulary found during independent reading with a symbol—for example, an asterisk (\*).

#### Record:

- Date
- Title and author of your reading book
- Pages you have read
- Prompt
- Response

#### Example:

**Date:** 04/08/2015

**Book Title and Author:** *Animal Behavior: Animal Defenses* by Christina Wilsdon

**Pages Read:** 63–84

**Prompt:** What questions do you have about animals or animal defenses after reading?

**Response:** What are some animals in my local area that emit scent as a defense?

- **Record 2–3 facts in your own words about animals or animal defenses that you found out in your research reading today.**
- **What questions do you have about animals or animal defenses after reading?**
- **What would you like to research further after reading? Why?**
- **Summarize your research reading today in no more than 4 sentences.**

- **How would you describe the setting of the particular part of the text you read?**
  - Hint: What did you picture in your mind as you were reading it? Why?
  - Hint: What did it say in the text to make you think that?
- **What do you think is going to happen next? Why?**
  - Hint: What has the author written so far to make you think that?
- **Summarize the pages you just read in no more than 4 sentences.**
- **What is the main idea of the part of the text you just read?**
  - Hint: The main idea is the point the author wants you to understand.
- **Think about the title of your text. Why do you think the author chose this title?**
  - Hint: Explain how the title fits the book.
  - Hint: Start out: “The title of my book is... The author chose this title because...”
- **What are two new words you learned in this text? Tell about the words.**
- **Choose a picture, chart, graph, or diagram from your text. Explain how the information you learned from the image helped you understand the text.**
  - Hint: First, think about the main idea of what you just read. Then, think about how the picture, chart, graph, or diagram supports the main idea.

### Homework: Animal Defense Mechanisms Discussion

**Consider discussing the following questions to prompt conversation:**

- Name an animal you have been learning about and tell one way it uses its body to help it survive.
- Name an animal you have been learning about and tell one way it behaves that helps it survive.
- Name two animals you have been learning about. Do they have the same type of defense? Why or why not?
- Most animals would rather not fight a predator. Why might this be?

As you discuss the questions, stop and paraphrase what the other person has said. (SL.4.2)

## Homework: Vocabulary Work

**Directions:** In the classroom, you have been recording words from your research in your Vocabulary Log. Throughout this unit, you have been research reading topic-related books at home to build your knowledge of animals and animal defense mechanisms and recording words in your independent reading journal.

Choose a word from your research reading or from a text you've read in class and add the word to your Vocabulary Log. Try to choose a different word to add and to practice a different vocabulary strategy each time. For each word, be sure to add the following:

- the definition, or meaning, of the word
- the vocabulary strategy you used to figure out the meaning of the word
- a sketch or diagram that helps you to better understand the meaning of the word

As a reminder, the vocabulary strategies we've been working on in class are:

- Read on in the text and infer.
- Think about parts of the word that you know (like word roots).
- Look in the glossary.
- Look for a text feature that defines the word.
- Look in a dictionary.
- Discuss the word with another person (after attempting some of the above strategies).