

READ! WRITE!





Dear Parents/Caregivers,

Building a reader is not always easy, but YOU are an important part of making it happen!

Your beginning reader has brought home a variety of books to read with you. Encourage your new reader to turn the pages, follow along, talk about the story, “read” the pictures, and work on the journal with you to help them organize thoughts and ideas to build comprehension and writing skills.

Although reading is done at school, reading at home makes a difference. Research says when you read 20 minutes a day you will hear 1,800,000 words per year. A rich balance of reading aloud and independent reading fosters social and emotional well-being and bolsters reading comprehension skills.

How to get the most out of your 20 minutes a day? First, set up a routine. Reading and writing are like exercise for your brain. Schedule a daily time in a comfortable spot to share a good book with your reader. Second, decide which book you are going to read together. As you are reading, use different voices, wonder things out loud, and make small mistakes to see if your reader catches them. Encourage your new reader to point to words, allow them to turn the pages, and ask them about their favorite part of the story. Third, choose an activity from their journal to complete together. Feel free to use a separate notebook to write or draw more. Finally, enjoy yourself! This is a time to bond and have fun with your reader and watch their knowledge grow.

Thank you for making reading and writing a priority in your child’s life! Grab a book and let your adventure begin!





Zoo Reading Tic-Tac-Toe

Activity: Have your reader play Tic-Tac-Toe by reading different books about animals. Can you get a Tic-Tac-Toe?

Read about your favorite zoo animal.

Read about your favorite reptile.

Read a book about mammals.

Read about a flying animal of your choice.

FREE SPOT
Go WILD!
Read a book about anything you want.

Read a book about animals that live in the water.

Read a book about your favorite jungle animal.

Read a book about baby animals.

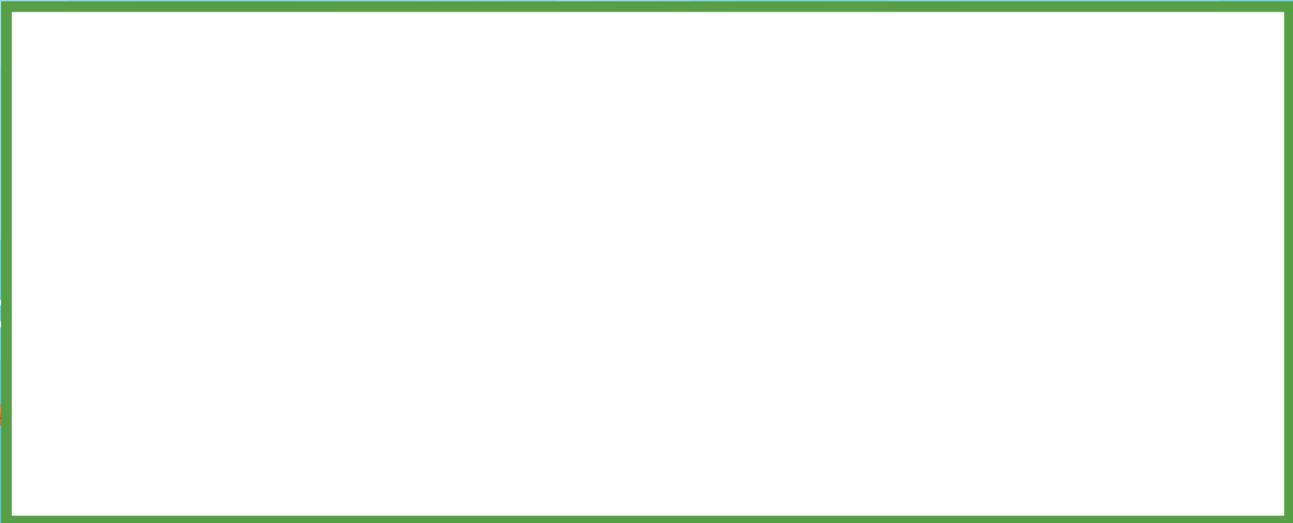
Read a book about any animal you choose.

Nonfiction

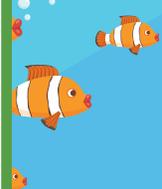
Children love to read about real people, places, and things. Explain to your reader that works of nonfiction, also known as informational texts, are stories that are true. The stories are filled with facts and real information. Try reading multiple books on the same topic to help your reader gain a better understanding.

Activity: Read a nonfiction book together and have your child draw a picture in each box of two facts they learned from the story.

Draw Fact 1



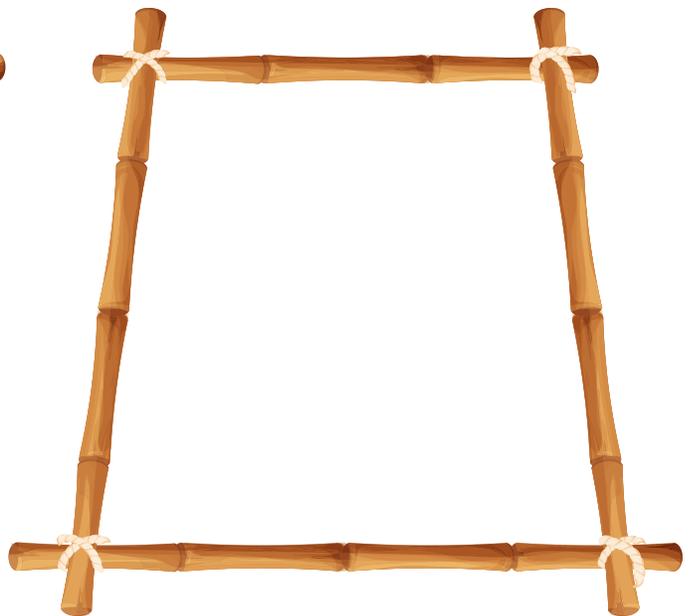
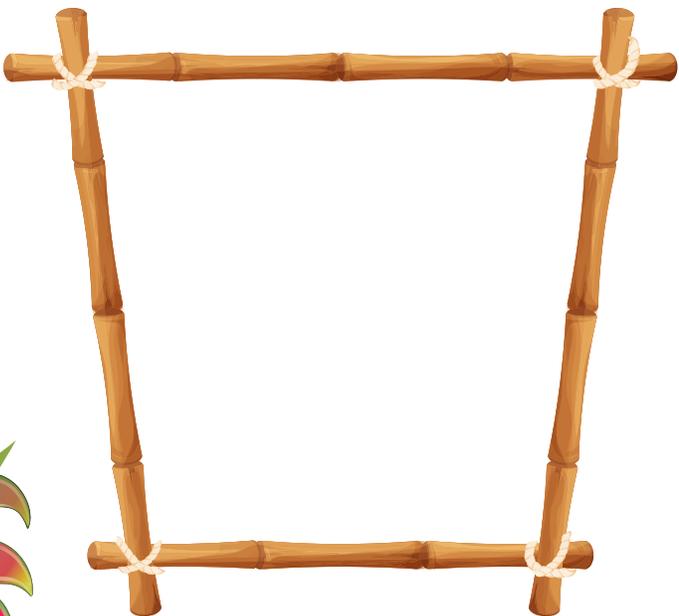
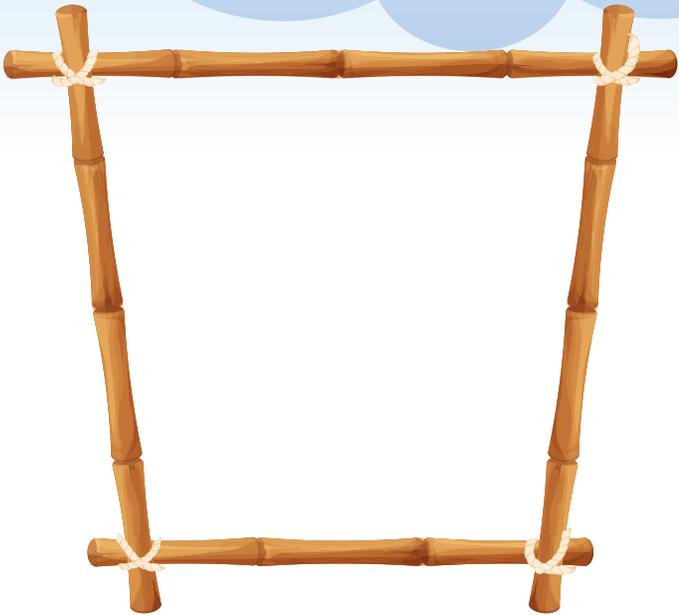
Draw Fact 2



Fun with Words



Activity: Work with your child to write new words in the shapes below. Optional: Have your child draw pictures representing the words and color.



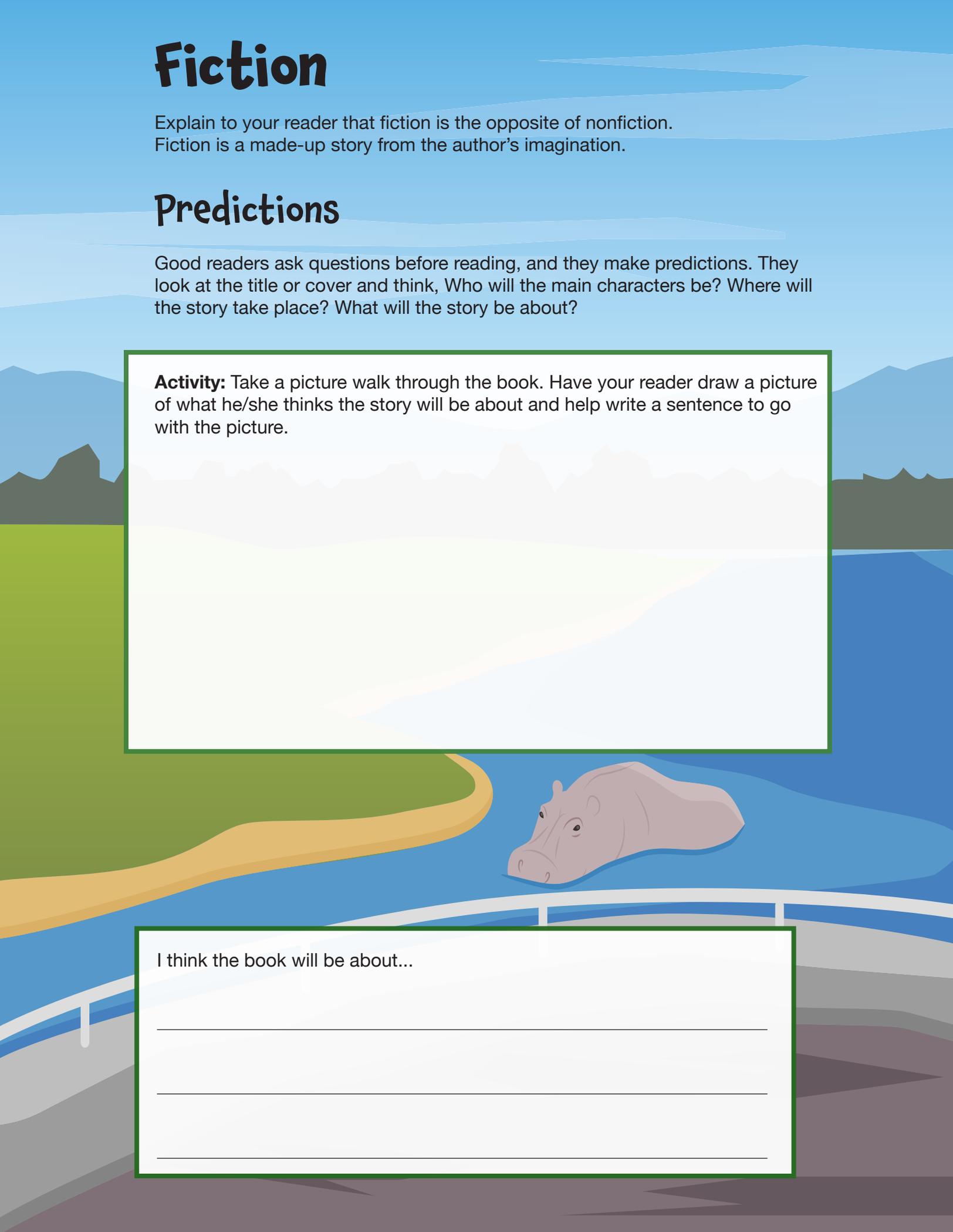
Fiction

Explain to your reader that fiction is the opposite of nonfiction. Fiction is a made-up story from the author's imagination.

Predictions

Good readers ask questions before reading, and they make predictions. They look at the title or cover and think, Who will the main characters be? Where will the story take place? What will the story be about?

Activity: Take a picture walk through the book. Have your reader draw a picture of what he/she thinks the story will be about and help write a sentence to go with the picture.



I think the book will be about...



My favorite character is...

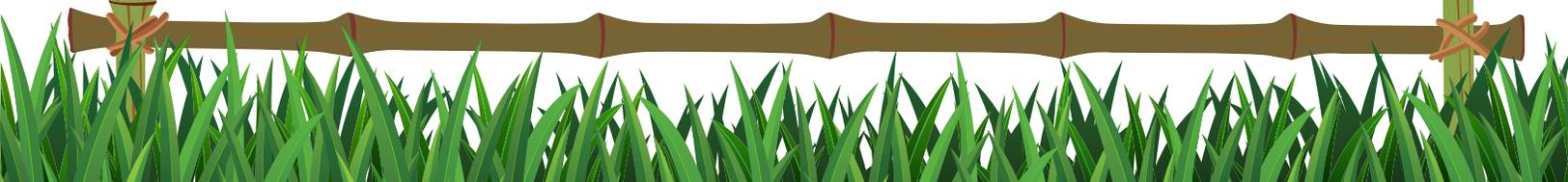
Activity: Help your child write about their favorite character and have them draw a picture of the character in the box below.

My favorite character was _____

because _____



Draw a picture of your favorite character.



Setting

Draw where and when your story took place.

Where did the story take place?

When did the story take place?



Sequence of Events

Retell the Story

Activity: Have your reader draw pictures of what happened first, next, and last in the story and help him/her write a sentence to describe the picture.

First: _____



Next: _____

Last: _____



The Story and Me

Activity: Have your reader draw a picture to match the story elements in the boxes below.

Your favorite character:

How the story made you feel:

Your favorite part of the story:

Connecting the story to me:

You read in the story...

This reminds you of:



Book Review



Activity: Work with your reader on a review of the book. Help him/her to write the title, draw his/her favorite part of the story, and share if he/she liked the book and why. Capture the reason in the space below.

Title of the book: _____

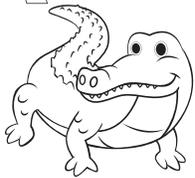
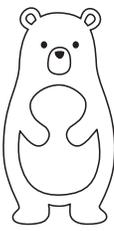
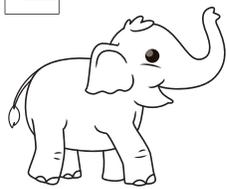
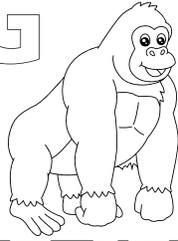
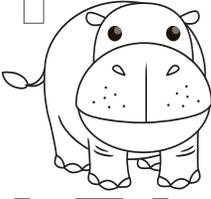
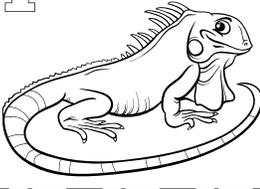
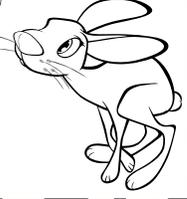
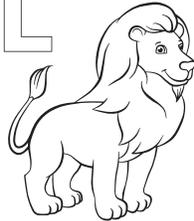
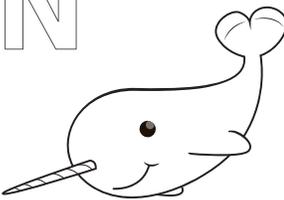
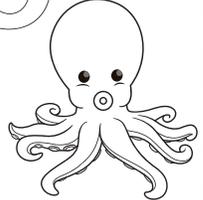
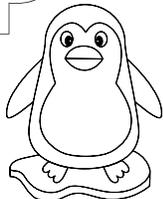
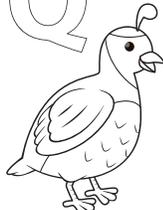
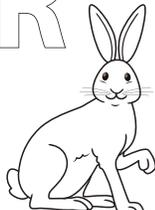
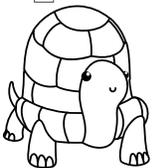
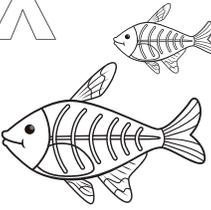
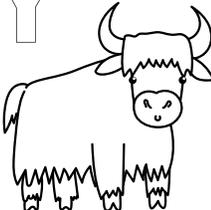
Draw your favorite part:

I   the book because:



Alphabet Adventure

Activity: Have your reader say each letter of the alphabet and name the animal.
Have them color each animal.

A Alligator 	B Bear 	C Cheetah 	D Donkey 	E Elephant 	
F Flamingo 	G Gorilla 	H Hippopotamus 	I Iguana 	J Jackrabbit 	
K Kangaroo 	L Lion 	M Monkey 	N Narwhal 	O Octopus 	
P Penguin 	Q Quail 	R Rabbit 	S Skunk 	T Turtle 	U Umbrellabird 
V Vulture 	W Walrus 	X X-Ray Fish 	Y Yak 	Z Zebra 	