



# Supporting Comprehension and Academic Language When Reading and Discussing a Text

(Part 1 of 2)

The second graders in Mr. Alvarado's guided reading group preview and began reading the text, *Amazing Eyes* by George Ivanoff. The students are completely engrossed as they explore close up photos of different creatures' eyes, such as chameleons, and jumping spiders. The lesson focuses on identifying the "main topic and key details" and Mr. Alvarado scaffolds the discussion using a variety of supports. First, he encourages the students to try to find details on the page about jumping spiders by turning to a partner and using the frame, "Two key details about \_\_\_ are \_\_\_ and \_\_\_."

Some of the students need more support as they struggle to respond, so the teacher invites students to repeat the frame together, "Two key details about jumping spiders are that they have four eyes on the back of their heads and four eyes on the front of their heads."

The group decides that these eyes help the jumping spider do exactly what the name indicates—jumping spiders jump! Students read the text silently as Mr. Alvarado coaches individual children as they identify key details on each page. He encourages and prompts the use of the academic language and full sentences repeating the frame again, "Two key details about \_\_\_ are \_\_\_ and \_\_\_."

After reading, Mr. Alvarado challenges students to discuss the main idea of the entire text by asking, "What is the author's message across the whole book? How does each section of the book support the author's message?"

He encourages students to use the frames: "The author's message is \_\_\_. The details \_\_\_ and \_\_\_ support the message." He writes the frames on a chart for easy reference. The students reread the text to find responses they want to share with the group.

Part 2 to be posted next week.

Nichols, M. & Oczkus, L. (In Print). Supporting Comprehension and Academic Language When Reading and Discussing a Text. *Talk About Books Program Guidebook* (pp. 19-21). New York, NY: Mondo Publishing.

