

And the Winner Is...



Summary: And the Winner Is... is a series of nonfiction books that explores the wonders of animal life in different habitats of the world. Each book focuses on another habitat or type of animal, describing which animal would win for categories such as the strongest, loudest, or fastest.

Author: Meish Goldish **Genre:** Informational Text

CHALLENGING BOOK FEATURES

Text:

Students may become confused about the relationship between the running text, the photos and captions, and the information call-out boxes. Some information is conveyed only through captions and photographs.

Content:

Although the books describe some animals with which the children are familiar, there are many unfamiliar animals as well. Encourage children to use the photos to clarify information about the animals which they know nothing about.



SUPPORTIVE BOOK FEATURES

Text Features:

Difficult words are written in bold text, and a glossary provides definitions.

PREPARING TO READ

Read the title with students and discuss the cover photo.

Ask:

- * What animals do you notice on the cover?
- * What new information do you think you will learn in this book?
- * Whom do you predict the winner will be?



DEVELOPING COMPREHENSION STRATEGIES

Determining Importance and Summarizing:

Explain to students that as they read nonfiction text, they should be considering what is most important about the text as a whole. One way to figure this out is by identifying phrases that repeat themselves, and asking: Why does the author repeat this phrase?

Model for students how this can be used to determine the important information in this book and to summarize the book.

Synthesizing:

Reading must make sense. When reading nonfiction text, we sometimes need to paraphrase chunks of the text and then put them back together to make meaning. Teach students to stop after each short section of text and jot a note or retell what they have just read. After reading a longer section of the book, students can put those ideas together and summarize the book up to this point.



DEVELOPING FLUENCY

Punctuation Marks:

Explain to students that sometimes authors use rhetorical questions to build interest in the book. By paying attention to punctuation marks at the end of sentences, and reading questions with a question tone of voice, we can create a purpose for reading and help ourselves maintain interest in the book.

Direct students' attention to pages 4–5 in the book. Model how you pay attention to the question marks and exclamation marks as you read aloud. Have students repeat each sentence after you.

Oral Language/Conversation:

The animals in each book are chosen because of one specific strength that they have. Encourage children to talk about a special talent they have.

