

Appendix E1

Before-Reading “Book Cover Talk”

Before your child begins reading a text by him/herself, have a brief discussion using some of the following questions. (If preferred, you can have your child write the answers to this discussion first.) Keep in mind whether the text you are using is fiction or non-fiction. Try not to judge your child’s responses as “right” or “wrong.” Just be curious about his or her thinking. Have your child read the book title (or help if needed) and let him/her examine the book cover. Also have your child read the back cover summary. Then, ask some of the following questions:

- What do you think this book is going to be about?
- What makes you think that?
- What clues do you see on the cover that tell us what we are going to read about?
- (For a fiction text) What do you guess the problem might be in this story?
- (For a non-fiction text) What do you already know about _____? (For example, the book might be about the circulatory system or an event in history or a biography of a famous person. What does your child already know about the subject?)
- Tell me more about that.

Some examples of responses from you that do not seem evaluative (as if your child is “right” or “wrong”):

- That’s very interesting. I wonder if that will happen in this book!
- That might happen!
- I can see why you think that way.