INTRODUCE THE BOOK

Before students begin to read, prepare them for a successful first reading of the story. Familiarize them with the plot, important concepts, new words, and language structures in the book. Begin by providing a brief synopsis of the book.

SYNOPSIS OF THE STORY

This book is about polar bears. They are very large bears that can live in the extreme cold.

BEFORE STUDENTS BEGIN TO READ YOU MIGHT SAY:

1 “Look at the Table of Contents. What do you think you might learn about in this book?”
2 “On page 4, it says, Polar bears are very large bears.”
3 “On page 8, there is a map. What countries do you see on the map?”
4 “There is a Glossary on page 24. You will find new words and what they mean there.”

READ THE TEXT

After you look through the book together, have the students begin to read. Encourage the students to read the entire book in a soft reading voice. Listen to the students’ reading, and prompt for and/or praise strategic processing. See Prompting Guide M for reading behaviors to observe and support.

DISCUSS AND REVISIT THE TEXT

Start a conversation about the story. Encourage students to make connections to their own experiences and/or other stories they have read. Engage the conversation by asking students to make predictions, inferences, and connections to personal experiences or other stories. Stay away from questions that can be answered with “yes” or “no.”

YOU MIGHT ASK:

- “Why do you think polar bears’ fur looks white or tan?”
- “Do you have any similarities to a polar bear? What are they?”