

## TEACHING NOTES

Book title: Tornado

Series: Wild Weather

*Tornado looks at the violent, twisting winds that can destroy anything in their path. This book explains where and how tornadoes occur and the impact they have on people around the world. It answers questions such as: Where is "Tornado Alley"? How can you stay safe from a tornado? How do people cope with these mighty twisters?*



### Text Structure: Question and Answer



Explain to students that the author organizes sections of *Tornado* by asking questions and then answering them for the reader. Have students turn to the table of contents and look at the first few section headings. On the board, draw a two-column chart similar to the one on the reproducible graphic organizer. Write the question that heads the first section, *What Is a Tornado?*, in the first column. In the second column, turn the question around: write "A tornado is <blank>." Read pages 4 and 5 with students and then ask them to fill in the blank with the answer. As students read the next several sections, have them fill in the question headings in the first column of their reproducible and the answers in the second column. Remind students to pay attention to questions as they continue to read, both in headings and in topic sentences.



### Text Feature: Headings

Before reading, point out the headings at the beginning of each section and remind students that headings help signal to readers what the book will be about. Readers can also use headings to locate specific information before, during, and after reading.

#### **Think aloud:**

"When I read the heading on page 24 (*Tornadoes and Nature*), I predict that I will learn about the effect that tornadoes have on the plants and animals. I'll read on to see if I am correct."

Have students skim the book's headings to make predictions about what they will read. Write their predictions on the board. After reading, revisit students' predictions and discuss how well their predictions matched the text.



### Comprehension Strategy: Questioning

Explain to students that good readers ask questions as they read. When they ask questions, they are interacting with what they read and attempting to clarify ideas about the content of the text. Before reading, show students the cover of the book. Ask them what questions they have about tornadoes before they read. List students' questions on the board. Encourage students to record any other questions they have as they read on self-stick notes. After reading, discuss which questions were answered by the text and which questions were not. Help students determine appropriate sources for seeking answers to questions that were not answered by the text, such as the *More Books to Read* section on page 32.



### Word Study: Capitalization

Remind students that a common noun names a person, place, or thing and is not capitalized. Words such as *weather*, *cloud*, and *tornado* are examples of common nouns. Explain to students that proper nouns name a particular person, place, or thing and always begin with capital letters. Words such as *Oklahoma* and *Tornado Alley* on page 16 are proper nouns. *Oklahoma* is capitalized because it names a particular state. *Tornado Alley* is capitalized because it names a particular region of the country. Have students go through the book and list other proper nouns. Ask them to explain why these words are capitalized.



### Writing and Responding: Description

Have students choose a photograph or illustration from the book that they find interesting and write a description of it. Ask students to include information such as proper names and dates from the text. Encourage them to use descriptive words and details in their paragraphs. Discourage them from using vague language.

 Indicates a graphic organizer is linked to this activity.

NAME

