

Dear Parent/Caregiver,

First Ladies Make History is a book that provides information – it is an informational text. Here are some ideas on how you might share the book during reading time with your child. You can use these ideas with any informational texts you read together. We know you'll love learning about Barbara Bush and other First Ladies of the United States! Have fun!

Reading an Informational Text

- An informational text or book provides information on a specific topic. Borrow *First Ladies Make History* or other informational books to read throughout the week.
- Start your reading time with your child by flipping through the pages of the book and talking about what the pages look like – what do you both notice? This is an important reading strategy to do before you read an informational book.
 - Are there pictures or charts?
 - Are any words bolded or in different colors?
 - Are there sections in the book with different titles and headings?
 - Is there a glossary or word list at the end of the book? What other information is at the end of the book?
 - Are there sentences under the pictures or charts? Those short statements are called captions, and they help the reader understand the picture or image.
 - You just explored *text features!* Text features provide additional information about the content in the book. They help you understand ALL the information on the page or in the chapter or section of the book.
- Enjoy reading the book and re-read any favorite parts. Talk about what you learned, what you found interesting, what surprised you, and even what you still have questions about!
- Keep reading all different types of informational texts! Read recipes, street signs, game instructions, and non-fiction books. What else can you read?

Activities You Can Do Together

➤ Scavenger Hunt

- Choose any informational book, newspaper, or magazine and have a scavenger hunt! Flip through the pages – who can find a picture? A caption? Who can find the first heading or word in bold?
- Have a conversation – why do you think the author chose to show the information by using a picture, or caption, or bolded word? Is there a sentence or paragraph that you think should have had its own text feature? Why?

➤ Create Your Own Text Features

- Build on the scavenger hunt activity above and create a text feature to go with it. What could you create to make the sentence or paragraph easier to understand for the person reading the book?
- Help your child create a picture, image, graph, or caption to support what they are reading and learning. You can create this using technology or with paper and a pencil. Work together or each of you can create your own!

➤ Creative Captions

- Remember, a caption is a short sentence under a picture or image. It explains the picture or image and provides more information.
- Creating captions for pictures is fun! Choose any picture or image from a book, scrapbook, photo album, or draw one. Write 1-2 sentences that describe the picture.
- Play a game with captions:
 - Write 1-2 sentences to describe something and have the other person draw a picture that matches the caption.
 - Who can write the silliest caption for a picture? Choose a picture, write your captions, and share.

➤ Research a New Topic

- Does your child have an interest they want to learn more about?
- To learn about the topic, you can:
 - Use technology – search online using key words for the topic. For example, if you are researching horses, you might search for *horses*, *horse racing*, *stables*, or *caring for a horse*. If researching soccer, you might search for *soccer*, *group sports*, or *what is soccer called in other countries?*
 - Visit the library and check out books on this topic. Ask the librarian for help too!

More Books to Explore

- *Rocco Keeps the Beat! Music at the White House* by Rocco Smirne
- *Reaching for the Moon* by Katherine Johnson
- *A Life of Service: The Story of Senator Tammy Duckworth* by Christina Soontornvat
- Look for *National Geographic Readers* at your library and in stores
- Look for *Who Was?* or *Where Is?* books at your library and in stores

We hope you enjoyed reading *First Ladies Make History* and doing the activities with your child. The most important part about reading with your child is sharing time with them. You are your child's best and first teacher!

– Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy