Time to Read!

Before We Read, Let’s Look At...

The Cover: What do you think the monkey is eating? How does the cover illustration give you clues about the setting of this story?

The Pictures: Notice that in the corner of each page the author includes bookworms to comment on the text information. Tell students to be prepared to answer why the author used this feature after reading.

Prior Knowledge: Show students a world map and have them locate the areas near the equator that have tropical rainforests. Rainforests only cover about 6% of the earth’s surface, but they are home to over half of the species of animals and plants in the world. Have students discuss why rainforests are so diverse with a partner, then share their thoughts with the group.

Vocabulary: anole, aphids, hyphae, midge

Purpose for Reading: As we read, think about what would happen if one of the animals in the story went extinct.

While We Read

Monitoring Comprehension
- Is the cocoa fruit like any other tree fruits?
- Why is the midge important?

- How do you think the coffin fly was discovered and named?

Let’s Think About

Our Purpose: Now that we have read about the job of each of the animals and how they help the cocoa tree, what would happen to the cocoa bean if just one of those animals went extinct? How would that affect the rest of the world? What would happen if all the animals in the book went extinct? Would people lose more than chocolate?

Extending Our Thinking: How did the bookworms help you understand the text? Why do you think the author included them? If you were going to write a nonfiction book, how would you help readers understand the information? How would you make the book fun and interesting?

Note to Educators
- Extension Activities for Educators also available.
- Vocabulary Scaffolding Sheet also available.