

# What's the Weather?



## A RIF GUIDE FOR EDUCATORS

**Themes:** Climate Change, Environmentalism, Extreme Weather, Seasons

**Author and Illustrator:** Shelley Rotner

**Book Brief:** *What's the Weather?* is a nonfiction text that shows weather and seasons as a part of people's everyday lives, different types of extreme weather, and the impacts that people have on weather and climate.

## TIME TO READ!

### BEFORE WE READ LET'S LOOK AT...



**The Cover:** Say, "The title of this book is *What's the Weather?* What is the weather where this child is? How can you tell? Is it the same or different from our weather today?"

**Picture Walk:** Flip through some pages and have students point out different types of weather in the book. Ask, "Do you see anything in this book that you already know about? Do you see anything new that you want to learn more about?"

**Vocabulary:** Review these weather words using the Picture Vocabulary Cards: weather, hot, cold, rain, snow, sunshine, meteorologist, cloud, thunder, lightening, rainbow, hurricane, tornado, sleet, climate.

**Purpose for Reading:** "What do we know about the weather? There are many different types of weather that can affect the earth and people in many different ways. Let's see if we can learn something new about the weather."

## WHILE WE READ

### COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (LEVELS 1-4)

*Throughout the story, pause and ask...*

- **Level 1:** "What is the weather on this page?" Say it or point to it.
- **Level 2:** "What did we learn about the weather on this page?"
- **Level 3:** "Have you ever been in weather like the weather on this page? What was it like?"
- **Level 4:** "What can/should you do in weather like this? How do you stay safe and happy in this type of weather?"

## LET'S THINK ABOUT

**Our Purpose:** Weather affects all living things, and is always changing from season to season and from day to day. Weather can affect people's lives in many different ways, but people can also affect the weather. People need to work together to take care of the earth and keep our climate healthy.

**Extending Thinking:** Say, "Climate is the pattern of weather in an area over a long period of time. We can help the climate stay healthy by taking care of the earth. What are some ways that you take care of the earth?" Write down student responses on chart paper to revisit throughout the unit.

### BOOK ACTIVITY:

#### Weather Station

Help your students become meteorologists by creating a dramatic play weather station! Find a space to display maps and forecast charts. Put up a weekly weather chart with changeable symbols

to track the weather for the week. Include tools like safe thermometers, rain gauges, and cloud guides, as well as books and pretend computers to research the weather.