Guided Reading Lesson Plan (Levels M-Z)

Before Reading: (5-7 min.)
*Summarize plot (M)  *Discuss pictures (M)
*Unfamiliar book language/character names (S)  *Draw upon students’ experiences (M)

Among people in many cultures, spitting is considered rude and something that should be avoided. For some animals, though, spitting is necessary for survival. Animals spit for reasons that include protection and hunting. You will discover the weird, wild, and wonderful world of animals that spit through text, photos, and fun “fact bites”.

Tap Prior Knowledge - Ask students if they have ever had the urge to spit. Explain that humans can choose whether or not to spit. For some animals, though, spitting is a reflex, like blinking their eyes.

Preview - Have students read the table of contents and scan the text and photos of the book. Have students locate and read the glossary.

Words/Text Layout:
*New or important words (V) unacceptable (4) saliva (4) territory (10) cunning (11) snare (15)
*Unusual aspect of text layout (V) Point out the Fun “Fact Bites”

Suggested Teaching Point (Behaviors to Notice and Support) or focus on a Comprehension Strategy: connections, questions, inferences, visualizing, summarizing, synthesizing, determining importance

*Encourage students to list any questions they have about the photos or text. Explain that good readers ask questions as they read to help them better understand the text.

During Reading: (10-15 min.)
Students silently read the text. You may choose to listen to a few students whisper read the text, if reading fluency is a concern. While students are silently reading, you can start another group or conference with students who are independently reading.

After Reading: (8-10 min.)
*Discuss the story -clarify confusion, revisiting parts of the text that posed problems for readers
-acknowledge partially correct responses, seeking to understand students’ perspectives
*What did you learn about alpacas?
*Why would an alpaca not want to spit?
*How are alpacas and camels similar? How are they different?
*What did you learn about cobra, archerfish, walrus, spider, and spittlebug spit?
*How is walrus spit different from the spit of the other animals we read about?
*What are two examples of animals that spit to capture food?
*What questions do you still have?
*What was new or interesting to you?

Writing Connection (optional): Write two or three facts you learned about each type of spitting animal OR write about a time you or someone you know experienced something unacceptable.