**FUN WITH NONFICTION**

1. **ACT IT OUT!** Use the sounds and actions in nonfiction to create dramatic readings.

For example, have siblings or friends play-act the beetle battle (on page 17 of *Freak Out!*) together using sounds and arm motions.

1. **WONDER!** Ask questions about what you have read together to make text connections (like the Introduction of *Black Out!*).

For example, ask: “I wonder what animals are awake at night in our neighborhood?” Maybe even stay up late one night to look for nocturnal creatures.

1. **INVESTIGATE!** Look on the Internet for more information on a favorite topic.

For example, use other books or the Internet to research primates, like the gibbon (on page 12 of *Far Out!*), which can walk standing up.

1. **GO OUTSIDE!** Take a walk, look in the trees for birds and nests, and turn over rocks to find insects (like page 48 of *Bug Out!*).

For example, see how many different types of insects you can find just in your backyard or a nearby park.

1. **CAPTURE IT!** Not with your hands, but with a camera to remember what animals you have spotted.

For example, ask kids to take pictures of unknown creatures to identify later.

1. **GET HANDS ON!** Look for activities provided in nonfiction books or on the Internet to help kids get creative.

For example, make Owl Barf Balls cookies (recipe on pages 46–47 of *Gross Out!* or in Fun Stuff section of author’s website, www.ginjerclarkebooks), which resemble owl pellets. Or dissect a real owl pellet by ordering one online (www.pellet.com, www.pelletsinc.com, www.carolina.com, www.obdk.com).

1. **BE CREATIVE!** Choose a favorite animal and make an artistic version.

For example, use paints, beads, yarn, modeling clay, or any type of art material to create an animal image.

1. **WRITE IT!** Create a crazy creature story by making a mash-up of different animal features (like the lion with horns, wings, and polka-dot spots on page 47 of *Freak Out!*).

For example, choose three animals from very different habitats and combine them to see how they could make a new super-creature.