Video: Roachzilla Returns
Description Nonfiction Text Structure
(main idea and details)

Josh has only one week left to finish making his first film so he can enter it into the school film festival. He's trying to come up with the lead character. He really wants to make a Godzilla-like moster thriller and Cali has just the creature for him! Josh wants all the details. Cali has found the perfect article on the web. She's also noticed that it's a terrific example of Description Nonfiction Text Structure!

Now it's **Your Turn!** Read ***The Madagascar Hissing Cockroach.*** Create your own *Think Aloud* and Graphic Organizer.

Then compare your thinking with **Cali's Think Aloud and Graphic Organizer**.

Before You Read:

Think about what you may already know about cockroaches. Think about what you've learned about descriptions. Remember that Description Nonfiction Text Structure is what authors use to describe characteristics, features, attributes, or examples of a person, place, thing, or idea.

While You Read:

Notice signal words that can help you determine main ideas and details. You may want to highlight signal words in blue. Highlight the main idea in orange and the details in green. (You may use any colors available to you – just remember your color scheme!)

After You Read:

- Think about how you would *"Describe the Madagascar Hissing Cockroach."*
- Think about the video you just watched. Cali shared how she made sense of the passage *Madagascar Hissing Cockroach*. Create your own *Think Aloud*. Share how you made sense of this passage, too.

Madagascar Hissing Cockroach

The hissing cockroach is such an interesting and entertaining creature that it has become a favorite insect pet. It comes from Madagascar, an island off the coast of Africa where many other unusual animals live. You would find these cockroaches in groups on the forest floor among the fallen leaves and fruits. If you should frighten one by bumping it with your foot, it would frighten you with a sharp hiss created by forcing air out of its breathing tubes.

When you looked to see what made that hiss, you would find a big flat insect: three pairs of legs, one pair of antennae, but no wings. Wings would not be useful when rummaging in the leaves. They look like a small, flat armored tank about the size of the palm of your hand. The abdomen is brown and the thorax, to which the legs are attached, is black. These colors blend in well with the forest floor. The head is tucked under the front part of the thorax. The males are different from the females because they have rounded horns on top of the front part of the thorax.

During the day, these cockroaches rest, but at night, you would find them much more active. The males hiss and push each other with their horns and bump abdomens. The winner of this social game becomes the leader of the group.

The groups of males, females, and young slowly search about hunting for food; a rotting fruit is a favorite. The leader samples the food first.

In addition, this leader fathers the brood of up to 60 babies. These babies develop from a batch of eggs that the mother carries for about two months in a brood sac. The live babies are tiny and as white as snow when they emerge, but soon they also become brown and black. Right after birth, they feed on a jelly-like substance provided by the mother. It is not yet known how she does this.

Wouldn't you like hissing cockroaches to study?

Create a Graphic Organizer:

After you have determined the main idea and details of the Madagascar Hissing Cockroach, create a graphic organizer below to represent your thinking to help you remember the author's main points.

thinking ALOUD
Making Sense of Literacy

RE-VIEW
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Compare your Think Aloud with Cali's Think Aloud:

Cali's Think Aloud: "Since the topic of the article is the Madagascar Hissing Cockroach, I use this as my label of the center circle. I learn about where the cockroach lives, so I label my first circle *habitat*. I write *Madagascar*, because that's where they come from. I also include *forest floor*. That's where they hide among the *fallen leaves* and *fruits*.

From the next paragraph I notice that the author is describing what the cockroach looks like. I label the next circle *appearance*. Extending from this circle are the descriptive words that help me remember specific features. I include *3 pairs of legs, pair of antennae, no wings, size of palm, brown and black, head tucked under thorax,* and *males have horns.* I see that the horns are used when fighting other males, so I'm going to add *push other males* extending from *males have horns.* I read that the winner is the leader of the group, so I add that as well.

I learn that they are nocturnal, or active at night. I add another circle indicating this important fact.

I think the hissing sound is an important characteristic, so I make a new circle extending from the center and write *hissing* on it. The hiss is used as a *defense mechanism* and to *show dominance.* It is made by *exhaling air through breathing tubes.*

I label the next circle *food* since I learn what the cockroach eats. They like *rotting fruit.* At least the *leader samples the food first!*

Finally, I read about the *babies.* *Up to 60 babies* are born at once. They develop in a *brood sac for 2 months.* They're *born alive,* are *white, but soon turn brown and black.* They *feed on a jelly-like substance from their mother.*"

Madagascar Hissing Cockroach

The hissing cockroach is such an **interesting** and **entertaining** creature that it has become a favorite insect pet. It comes from **Madagascar**, an island off the coast of Africa where many other unusual animals **live**. You would find these cockroaches in groups on the **forest floor** among the **fallen leaves** and **fruits**. If you should frighten one by **bumping it with your foot**, it would frighten you with a **sharp hiss** created by **forcing air out of its breathing tubes**.

When you looked to see what made that hiss, you would find a big flat insect: **three pairs of legs**, one **pair of antennae**, but **no wings**. Wings would not be useful when rummaging in the leaves. They **look like** a small, flat armored tank about the **size of the palm** of your hand. The abdomen is **brown** and the thorax, to which the legs are attached, is **black**. These colors blend in well with the forest floor. **The head is tucked under the front part of the thorax.** The **males** are different from the females because they **have** rounded **horns** on top of the front part of the thorax.

During the day, these cockroaches rest, but at **night**, you would find them much **more active**. The males **hiss** and **push each other** with their horns and bump abdomens. The **winner** of this social game **becomes the leader of the group**.

The groups of males, females, and young slowly search about hunting for **food**; a **rotting fruit** is a favorite. The **leader samples the food first**.

In addition, this leader fathers the brood of **up to 60 babies**. These babies develop from a batch of eggs that the mother carries for about **two months in a brood sac**. The **live babies** are tiny and as **white as snow when they emerge, but soon they also become brown and black**. Right after birth, they **feed on a jelly-like substance provided by the mother**. It is not yet known how she does this.

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Compare your Graphic Organizer with Cali's Graphic Organizer:

Cali's Graphic Organizer: "Because the author is describing the topic or main idea by providing details, I use a description map."

Questions to Think and Talk About:

- How does Cali use the characteristics, features, attributes, and examples from the text to make sense of the topic?
- How does the *Description Graphic Organizer* help Cali determine important ideas?
- Why might this process help you make sense of text?
- When might this process be useful?

Madagascar Hissing Cockroach

Habitat
- Fallen leaves
- Forest floor
- Madagascar
- Fruits

Babies
- Feed on jelly-like substance from mother
- Born white, soon turn brown and black
- Born alive
- Develop in brood sac for 2 months
- Up to 60 offspring at once

Food
- Leader samples food first
- Rotting fruit

Appearance
- Three pairs of legs
- Pair of antennae
- No wings
- Size of palm
- Brown and black
- Head tucked under thorax
- Males have horns
- Push other males
- Winner is leader of group

Nocturnal

Hissing
- Force air out of breathing tubes
- Show dominance
- Defense mechanism