

Snakes Slither and Hiss

- 1** What is the main purpose of this text? Do you think the title of the book reflects its purpose?
- 2** Look at the contents page. How long are most of the sections in this book? Do you think that's a useful thing to check on this page?
- 3** There are two words on page 9. One of them is a label, but the other one is not. Which word is the label? What does the other word tell you?
- 4** Look at the entry for 'camouflage' in the glossary. What is the purpose of the text in brackets? Why is this valuable?
- 5** How might you use the glossary to help you to answer the quiz questions? Look at questions 1, 2 and 3. Choose a key word from each question that would help you to find the answer.
- 6** How does this book compare with other books about animals you have read? What do you think are the most important similarities and differences between them?
- 7** Has this book changed your ideas about snakes? Explain what your opinions were before reading it and what they are after reading it. How do you think the author of this book feels about snakes?

Answers

- 1 The text describes different kinds of snake. Answers will vary. Example answers: It does reflect the purpose because the book includes the fact that snakes slither and hiss. / It doesn't reflect the purpose because there are lots of other facts about different snakes in the book.
- 2 Most sections are two pages long. Answers will vary. Example answers: It is useful, as there are a lot of sections, and it helps to know that they're short. / It isn't useful because the contents is for finding out the page numbers for the sections, not their length.
- 3 The label is 'egg'. The other word tells us the sound a snake makes.
- 4 It tells the reader how to say the word 'camouflage'. This will help a reader to read the book aloud and/or to talk about the topic.
- 5 The glossary can be used for looking up key words in the questions. The words that are in both the questions and glossary are: 1 jaws, 2 fangs / pit organs, 3 rattle (in glossary as 'rattlesnakes') / tail. Answers will vary.
- 6 Answers will vary.
- 7 Answers will vary. The reader should identify that the author is (probably) interested in snakes.