

MAKING CONNECTIONS

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Making Connections is the focused activation of background knowledge to make sense of and comprehend a new text. By making connections while you are reading, you are better able to understand the text you are reading. Making connections requires you to think as you read, which makes you as the reader more engaged in the reading experience. Good readers use their connections to help make predictions throughout the reading of the text. You as the reader can make connections in four different ways:



- **text-to-self**
- **text-to-text**
- **within-text**
- **text-to-world**

TEXT-TO-SELF

As a good reader you use personal experiences to help you understand a variety of texts. You constantly ask yourself how the text relates to your life, to your experiences or to the experiences of the people in your life.



- How does this relate to my life?
- How is this text different from my life?
- I understand how the character feels because...
- How are the characters similar to you?

TEXT-TO-TEXT

Text-to-text connections happen when you make connections between the text you are currently reading to other texts you have seen or read previously. These texts include books, poems, songs, movies, and even television programmes. While making text-to-text connections you are thinking about similar elements between the texts. Similar elements include the characters, setting, events, genre features and themes.



- How is this text similar to other things I've read or seen?
- How could this text connection help me understand the text I am reading right now?
- How does this text connection help me predict what could happen next?

TEXT-TO-WORLD

Text-to-world happens when you, as the reader, make larger connections to the world around you. These connections are about the bigger issues, events or concerns of society. We learn about these issues through television, movies, books, magazines, internet sites and newspapers.



- How is this text similar to things that happen in the real world?
- What I just read reminds me of what's going on in the world now because ...
- What I just read reminds me of this thing that happened in history because...
- What I just read makes me wonder about the future because...

WITHIN TEXT

Within-text connections happen when you use details from earlier in the text to help you comprehend what is currently happening. The author has an expectation that you will already know who the characters are, and what events have happened and you will use these details to understand why an event may have happened or why a character may have reacted in a particular way. Sometimes authors will use foreshadowing to suggest a certain plot development later in the story by revealing subtle clues in an earlier section of the text, and it is your job as the reader to



- What do I know about this character that will help me understand their actions and reactions in different situations?
- How do the previous events in the text help me understand what is happening right now?
- How has the author used foreshadowing to reveal a future event?