

Making Connections

Understand the Strategy

A friend tells you about a funny moment that happened to her on the weekend with her aunt. You think: *That reminds me of the movie I watched with my family last summer at the drive in.*

You're watching a TV show about the Olympics and you see one sliding down the icy course in a bobsled. You think: *This reminds me of that magazine article I read about bobsledding and how dangerous it can be.*

When one thing makes you think of something else, you are making connections. You make connection to things you already know. When you connect what you read to something you already know, your reading will make more sense.



Types of Connections

Text to Self Connection: a connection between the text and something in your own life experience.

- What does this remind me of in my life?
- What is this similar to in my life?
- How is this different from my life?
- Has something like this ever happened to me?
- How does this relate to my life?
- What were my feelings when I read this?

Text to Text Connection: a connection between the text and another story or text that you have read previously. It could also be movie, television or other media.

- What does this remind me of in another book I've read?
- How is this text similar to other things I've read?
- How is this different from other books I've read?
- Have I read about something like this before?

Text to World Connection: a connection between the text and something that is occurring or has occurred in the world.

- What does this remind me of in the real world?
- How is this text similar to things that happen in the real world?
- How is this different from things that happen in the real world?
- How did that part relate to the world around me?

Why Smart Readers Make Connections

- It helps readers understand how characters **feel**.
- It allows the reader to become **involved**.
- It helps the reader **visualize** what's happening.
- It keeps the reader **interested**.
- It helps the reader to make smart **predictions**.



"Text to text, text to self, text to world... Leave it to school to take the fun out of texting."

How to use the Making Connections Strategy

Good readers draw upon prior knowledge and experience to help them understand what they are reading so they are able to use that knowledge to make connections. This is how you use the strategy.

- 1. Read carefully.** Ask yourself: *what does this remind me of?*
- 2. Try to connect what you read to something in your own life.** Ask: *what do I already know about this? Have I ever done something like this?*
- 3. Try to connect what you read to something you have read or seen before.**
Ask: *Have I ever read or seen anything like this before?*
- 4. Try to connect what you read to a big idea or something important in the world.** Think about ways this reminds you of something else you have seen or heard about.
- 5. Write down the connections you make and share them.**

What connections do you make as you read?

Type of Connection	Connection You Made