

Lesson: Interacts with the text before and during reading by making connections with previous experiences, information, and ideas.

Fourth Grade Objective: 2.025 enrichment

Lesson

1. Good readers make connections before and during their reading. Making connections will help you better understand what you are reading. Before you begin reading, it is helpful to make connections so that you have a good idea about the topic. While reading, making connections to the text will help you comprehend what you are reading. There are three different types of connections we are going to focus on. They are Text to Self, Text to Text, and Text to World.

2. When you connect to your self, you make a connection between what you are reading and something that you have experienced. When you make a connection to another text, you are relating something that you are reading to a different selection that you have read. Finally, when you make a connection to the world you are thinking about how what you are reading reminds you of something you have seen or learned about.

3. As previously mentioned, making connections will help you better understand what you read. Throughout this lesson, we will focus on making connections *and* identifying how that connection helps us to better understand what we read.

4. Let's practice making connections to a story. First you will need the story to read from the internet. Follow these steps after accessing the internet:

- Go to www.magickeys.com/books
- Click on Older Children
- Select "The Littlest Knight"

5. When I read the title, "The Littlest Knight," I thought about what I know about knights. I think that knights are people who protect a king. They may have to fight in dangerous battles. This connection to the world, gives me an idea about what the story may be about. I think there is a very small knight who wishes to go to battle for the king. Because he is little, nobody believes that he will be helpful. By making this connection, I am prepared to better understand the story when I read because now I want to see if what I already know about knights fits into what this story describes about knights.

6. Remember, readers also make connections while they are reading. So, read the first seven pages. While I was reading this story, I noticed that the princess did not laugh at the knight. The princess was also kind. This reminds me of a story I read about a princess and a beggar. Everybody in the town laughed at the beggar and treated him rudely except the princess. At the end of the story I read, the princess and the beggar are married and the beggar has an opportunity to prove to the king that he is worthy of the princess. This connection to another text helps me to better understand this story because now I can predict what I think will happen next in this story. I think that the knight will find a way to defeat the dragon even though nobody believes in him. I think that he and the princess will get married.

7. Now, you finish reading this story. As you are reading, try to think of connections you can make to this text, what type of connections you are making, and how these connections help you better understand what you read.

8. Record your connections on the graphic organizer on the next page. The connections I made are written in red.

Making Connections

	Before Reading	During Reading	How this Connection Helps me Understand What I Read
Text to Self			
Text to World	I think that knights are people who protect a king. They may have to fight in dangerous battles.		I am prepared to better understand the story when I read because now I want to see if what I already know about knights fits into what this story describes about knights.
Text to Text		This reminds me of a story I read about a princess and a beggar. Everybody in the town laughed at the beggar and treated him rudely except the princess. The princess and the beggar are married and the beggar has an opportunity to prove to the king that he is worthy of the princess.	This connection to another text helps me to better understand this story because now I can predict what I think will happen next in this story.

Check your answers using the following guidelines:

- I was able to make connections to my reading.
- The connections I made relate to myself, the world, or another text.
- The connections I made helped me to better understand what I read.

Try these on your own!

1. Read any story, book, or article of your choice. Make connections to the text before, during, and after you read. Record your connections in a chart similar to the one above. Use the guidelines on this page to check your connections.