

# Lesson Skill: Prior knowledge

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**Strand** Reading — Fiction

**SOL** 3.5

4.5

5.5

## Materials

- Personal Connections organizer (attached)
- Read-aloud book
- Sticky notes
- Texts at different reading levels

## Lesson

1. Choose a book to read aloud that will have many connections for students. Talk to them about how readers relate their own experiences to stories. Ask them why this would make the book more meaningful to them and give them a better understanding, adding to their comments to reinforce the concept of “prior knowledge.”
2. Read the book to the class, pausing as you think aloud, making connections, jotting them down on sticky notes, and marking the passages with them. Explain to students how the connection was made, how it helps with comprehending the story, and how it may help them remember an important part of the story.
3. Ask students if they can make connections to any part of the story that they heard. Allow them to make the connections, and be sure to ask how it helps them understand the text.
4. During small-group reading, have students make connections from the text to themselves. Use the Making Connections organizer (attached). Remind them that prior knowledge helps them make these connections.

## Strategies for Differentiation

- During small-group reading, have students use sticky notes to mark passages with which they relate.
- Have students make text-to-text and text-to-life connections.
- Use text with topics that have broad appeal, with which all students can identify, such as “going to school” and “family.”
- Pre-teach key vocabulary: *self*, *text*, and *world*.
- Choose books that have cultural relevance to students.

# Personal Connections

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

What this text is about	What this text reminds me of