Lesson Skill: Making connections

Strand Reading—fiction/nonfiction

SOL 5.5, 5.6
6.5, 6.6
7.5, 7.6
8.5, 8.6

Materials
- Copies of an interesting newspaper or magazine article or piece of narrative fiction or nonfiction
- Copies of the attached Making Connections worksheet

Lesson

1. Review with students strategies that good readers use while reading, including visualizing, asking questions, clarifying, and making connections. Ask why it might be helpful to make connections with a piece of writing while reading it. After hearing students' responses, explain that making connections is important because it helps you actively engage with the text. Good readers do this automatically. Explain that there are three general types of connections you can make with the text as you read: Text to Self, Text to World, Text to Text.

2. Distribute copies of the selected text and the Making Connections worksheet to students. Begin reading the text aloud to the class and modeling making connections aloud as you read.

3. Have the student pairs continue reading the text to each other and making connections as they read. Have students switch reader and listener roles halfway through the reading of the text. As the reading takes place, have student fill out the Making Connections worksheet.

4. After students are finished, lead a class discussion about the connections that were made. Ask if making connections while reading made it easier to understand the text. Ask why this might be a good strategy for readers in general to use.

Making Connections

As you read the text, make connections with it.

1. When you make a connection to something in the text, write a sentence describing the connection in the appropriate box.

2. Draw a picture of that connection next to the sentence.

Type of Connection to the Text	Sentence Describing the Connection	Picture Representing the Connection
Connecting Text to Self		
Connecting Text to World		
Connecting Text to Text		

Discussion Questions

1. How does making connections while you read make it easier to understand the text?

2. Why is making connections a good strategy for readers to use?