

Lesson 1

Introducing Connections

What is connecting?

Even though we all listen or see the same things, everyone has different things going through their mind. When we watch a movie or see some art, what I think about is related to my own experiences, and what you think about is related to yours.

The same thing happens when we read! Our memories can affect how we connect and relate to a story.

A connection can be made between things that have something in common, or have a link.

We all make different connections because we all have different memories, have had a different life, and have different experiences saved in our brain.

All our stories, memories and experiences are stored in our brains. So, when we read, something amazing happens. Our brain starts to light up when it makes a connection with something you read and something stored in your brain. The best thing about making connections, is that there is no right or wrong way to connect! Because all our stories are different, we will all make different connections.

There are many parts to a story you can connect to. It might be...

- a specific part in the story
- a character
- a picture in the book
- a feeling

Next...watch this fun story so we can practice connecting:

[Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day](#)

Connecting to the Plot

An event in the story may have happened to you, or someone you know, creating a connection between a memory and the book.

Here is an example of connecting to a part of the plot...

"I connected to the part of the story that Alexander was in the car because I remember a time that my friend had to sit in between their siblings for a very long car ride. They were not happy because they were getting squished just like Alexander."

Connecting to a Picture

The pictures are a very important part! It helps us visualize the story and may make it easier to connect too.

Here is an example of connecting to a picture...

"I connected with the picture of Alexander holding his foot in pain because I remember my brother made the same face when he stubbed his toe on a table."



Connecting to a Character

A character is a person, animal, or creature in a story. You can create a connection with *any* character in the story - it may not be the main character, but could be their friend, sibling, or even enemy.

Here is an example of connecting with a character...

"I connected with Alexander in this story because I recently had a day that nothing seemed to work for me which started with me spilling my breakfast on myself. It was a very frustrating day, and it felt like the day that Alexander had."

Connecting to a Feeling

When finding connections with feelings, you might remember a time you were in a similar situation and you had the same emotions.

Here is an example of connecting to feelings...

"I remember a time I woke up with bad hair and I felt the same way as Alexander did when he woke up with gum in his hair."

Your Task: Write a journal response about your connections to the story "Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day."