

Focus Lesson Planning Sheet

Focus Lesson Topic	Making Connections - Introduction to unit of study
Materials	A text that has a special connection to you. (example: The Art Lesson) Chart paper, markers
Connection	<i>Yesterday we finished a unit of study on _____. Today we're going to begin a new unit of study on making connections.</i>
Explicit Instruction	<p><i>Making connections is a strategy that good readers do while reading. Readers can make connections to their own lives, other books they have read, or to things that are going on in the world. The reason why readers make connections is to help them better understand the story. As we have learned the goal for reading is to be able to make sense of the information we are learning about so making connections is a strategy that helps build our understanding of a story.</i></p> <p><i>The following is a list of sentence starters that readers use when they share their connections. (This can become an anchor chart.)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This reminds me of... • It makes me think of... • One time I ... <p><i>Listen to me as I begin reading the story _____. Watch me as I share a connection with you. (Teacher models a connection using one of the sentence starters.)</i></p>
Guided Practice	<i>Continue reading a few pages of the story. Invite the students to turn and talk with a partner to share some connections they may have with a part from the story.</i>
Send Off [for Independent Practice]	<i>Now during Independent Reading, I want you to think about a connection that you have as you are reading your own story. As I come around and confer with some of you today, I'll be asking you to share a connection you had.</i>
Group Share	Allow 1-2 students to share a connection that they thought while reading. Encourage students to use the sentence starters as a reference.