

Name: _____ Book Title: _____

Page(s)	My Connection	Important to Me	Important to Understanding the Text

Focus Lesson Planning Sheet

Focus Lesson Topic	Making Meaningful Connections
Materials	Picture book or short text that will generate connections such as <i>Roxaboxen</i> by Alice McLerran, three-column chart labeled "My Connection/Important to Me/Important to Understanding the Text", student copies of blank chart
Connection	<i>Yesterday, we learned that making personal connections to a story helps us to understand it better.</i>
Explicit Instruction	<p><i>Today, I am going to show the difference between connections that help me to understand the story better and connections that might be important to me, but don't really help me to understand the story better. Let me show you what I mean as I read aloud from Roxaboxen.</i></p> <p>Read aloud a few pages from the selected text. Make one useful connection and one "connection in common" that points out a personal similarity/coincidence but does not enhance comprehension.</p> <p><i>Notice how my first connection really helps me to get a deeper understanding of the story. [Discuss connection briefly and how it aids comprehension.] Now let's look at this second connection. I like to call this a "connection in common." This connection might be important to me and remind me that I have something in common with the book, but the connection really does not help me to understand the story better or grow as a reader.</i></p> <p>Record connections on the three-column chart. Check the appropriate column for each connection.</p> <p>Continue reading and making connections. Be sure to record a variety of helpful and "connections in common."</p>
Guided Practice	<i>Now let's look at the connections that I have added to our chart. Turn and talk to a partner to decide which ones are important to me and which ones are important to understanding the text. [Allow 1-2 minutes for students to discuss with partners. Then have students share their thinking and check the appropriate chart column.]</i>
Send Off (for independent practice)	<i>I want you to always remember that some connections might be important to us, but they might not help us to understand the story better. During independent reading today, I would like you to notice the connections that you are making and record them on your own chart. Think about each connection and decide if it is important to you or if it helps you to understand the text better.</i>
Group Share	<i>Let's share some things you noticed about your connections today. Who can share a connection that helped them to understand?</i>