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Reading Strategy: Making Connections and Background Knowledge

- ♦ This strategy is a powerful one that draws upon everything your child already knows and has experienced.

Have you ever read a book and thought, *'this reminds me of...'* and then been even more interested in the story? That is making a connection! Your kids can also make connections to their own lives, other movies and books, or to what is going on in the world. **Making connections is like building a bridge between what they are reading and another part of their world.** The connections are made in three ways:

TEXT-TO-SELF - *'this reminds me of when X happened to me.'* Readers **make a connection between what they are reading and their own lives.** For example, if the main character of the story gets in trouble for talking in class, but he didn't do it, it might make your child think of a time in their own life when they were unfairly punished for something they did not do.

TEXT-TO-TEXT - *'this reminds me of that scene in X movie.'* Readers **make a connection between what they are reading and another book, movie, or TV show.** For example, if the book your child is reading takes place in space with battles between good and evil, it might make them think of the *Star Wars* movies.

TEXT-TO-WORLD - *'this reminds me of X going on in the world.'* Readers **make a connection between what they are reading and the world around them.** For example, if your child is reading a story about a kid who bullies another kid, it might make them think about how bullying is a problem at their school and in other schools.

Background Knowledge is closely related to Making Connections. If your child struggles with a text, ask them to think about what they already know about the subject of the reading, the author, the genre, or anything else. For example, if they have to read an article for school about climate change, have them think about what they have already heard or learned about the topic. They might be pleasantly surprised to realize they know quite a bit! **Going into the reading with some previous knowledge will get their brain firing and make it easier to comprehend the text.**

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