

Brief Focus Lesson

Use Prior Knowledge to Connect with Text for Grade 3

Text: *Monarch Butterfly* by Gail Gibbons

CAFE Goal	Comprehension
CAFE Strategy	Use Prior Knowledge to Connect with Text.
Observe/Relate (1 – 2 min.)	Last summer, I went to a butterfly garden exhibit. It was so much fun to walk around while hundreds of butterflies flew all around me. I learned some facts about butterflies at the exhibit, but I wanted to learn even more. So, I went to the library and checked out a book, but before I began reading it, I tried to remember all of the things I already knew about butterflies. Then as I read the book, I made connections between what was in the text and what I already knew about butterflies. Thinking about what I already knew helped me to make connections and understand my new book better.
Teach and Reinforce (2 – 3 min.)	<p>Establish purpose—Today we are learning to use prior knowledge to connect with text.</p> <p>Create urgency—We are learning to use prior knowledge to connect with text because it helps us to understand the books we read better.</p> <p>Explicit teacher modeling—The book that I am reading now is called <i>Monarch Butterfly</i> by Gail Gibbons. <i>(Since the pages are unnumbered, you may want to lightly pencil in the page numbers before sharing.)</i> It tells about a beautiful creature that you might see outside. Before I began reading the book, I thought about what I already knew about monarch butterflies. From science class, I remembered that the butterfly starts out as an egg and goes through different stages. I've seen pictures of monarch butterflies on the Internet, too, so I know what colors they have on their wings. Listen as I read the story and show how my prior knowledge helps me to connect with the text. <i>Begin reading the first few pages and interject comments that tell how you connect with the reading (for example, on page 7, the writer describes the egg and how it hatches—say "I remember reading that in my science book"). After reading page 15, say, "Yes, I was right—this insect goes through changes; egg, caterpillar or larva, chrysalis, and then butterfly. It completes its metamorphosis when it emerges from the cocoon as a butterfly. Wow! What I already knew about butterflies helped me to understand what I'm reading now!" (You can complete the read-aloud at another time if you wish; also note that pages 30-31 of the text explain how to raise a monarch butterfly if you</i></p>

	<p>want to do a science experiment in your classroom. The final page of the text contains some fun facts about monarch butterflies).</p>
<p>Practice (2 – 3 min.)</p>	<p>On a sticky note, write a connection that you had to the part of <i>Monarch Butterfly</i> that I shared with you. Remember that your connection is your own; it comes from your prior knowledge and experience. When I give the signal, I'll ask for you to tell your elbow buddy about your connection to the part of the book that I just read to our class. (If you like, you can draw a butterfly outline on the board or chart paper and invite children to place their sticky notes within the outline.)</p>
<p>Encourage and Plan (1 – 2 min.)</p>	<p>Begin using prior knowledge to connect with the texts you are reading. You'll notice that you are able to understand better and learn new information more easily. For example, the next time you read a book about butterflies, you will probably remember some of the information you learned today. Or, if you read another book about an insect or animal that goes through a metamorphosis, you'll recall what you learned about the butterfly. Every time you read, you add more information to your prior knowledge, and that will make it easier to comprehend new books.</p>
<p>Common Core Alignment</p>	<p>Most strategies are applicable to all grade levels. Use Prior Knowledge to Connect with Text aligns with Standard RL.3.4 on our Grade 3 CAFE Menu or CCSS Grade Level Matrix.</p>

Today I Used my Prior Knowledge
To Make Some Connections...

Readers make all kinds of connections to texts based on their prior knowledge. Write a few sentences that describe your connection to the text you are reading.

To Personal Experience

To Multimedia (Television/Internet/Videos/Music)

To Another Book or Article

Other