

Brief Focus Lesson

Use Prior Knowledge to Connect with Text for Grade 5

Text: The Keeping Quilt by Patricia Polacco

CAFE Goal	Comprehension
CAFE Strategy	Use prior knowledge to connect with text.
Observe/Relate (1 – 2 min.)	<p>I love making connections with a text when I read. As I read, I think about the connections that I have to the characters, the setting, or the problem in a story. For example, when I read a book about families, it often makes me think about my own parents, grandparents, brothers, sisters, and cousins. I remember the fun things that we do together, the talks we have, and the places we visit. These experiences help me to understand the characters in the texts I read. Thinking about families that I've read about in books, and the families that I've seen portrayed in the media helps me to connect with the text, too. Sometimes I connect with the setting, asking myself if I've ever been to a similar place. When I read, I think about the plot and the kinds of experiences the characters have. I consider the problems they face and how they solve them. Making connections with the characters, setting, and the plot help me to understand the story better. Often I'm amazed by how many connections I have to a story. We can make connections with nonfiction too, but today we will talk about connections with fiction.</p>
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 comprehend the text better and expand our understanding of the world.</p> <p>Explicit teacher modeling—I'm going to share part of <i>The Keeping Quilt</i>. (Since pages are unnumbered, you may want to pencil in the page numbers before reading). In this book, Patricia Polacco tells about a special handmade quilt that was passed down from one generation to another in her family. Please listen as I model how I use my prior knowledge to connect with this text. <i>After reading page 5, say "Wow! I've read books about families who came to America and had to get used to living in a new country. Patricia's family reminds me of the people that I've read about. Continue reading and then stop after page 7. What I know about immigrants helps me to understand how hard Patricia's great grandmother, Anna, must have studied to learn English so she could help</i></p>

	<p>her parents. She must have really treasured the scarf called a babushka that she brought from Russia because it was one of the few things she had from her homeland. <i>Continue reading the next page and say “How wonderful that Anna’s mother wants to use her family’s old clothes, including her daughter’s dress and babushka, to make a quilt. Anna’s mother misses her home, but she tries to solve her problem by making the quilt. Continue reading to page 11 and say “I’ve seen beautiful quilts in stores and museums, and I know that they are made from many different pieces of cloth. Anna’s family must have worked so hard on their beautiful quilt. Later, I will finish reading the story, and you’ll learn more about the important part the quilt played in Anna’s family and the memories they have about it.</i></p>
<p>Practice (2 – 3 min.)</p>	<p>You might know people like Anna and her mother. Maybe you have family, friends, or neighbors who came here from another country. Perhaps the family in the story reminds you of your family because they like to make things, too. Or, your family might have a special heirloom like a quilt that helps you to connect to this story. Turn and talk to your elbow buddy about how your prior knowledge helps you to connect to the text. You can use this prompt to get started (<i>display the prompt on the board or chart paper</i>).</p> <p>My prior knowledge about _____ helps me to connect with this text because_____.</p> <p>When you are finished, I’ll invite you to share how your prior knowledge helped you to connect with the text.</p>
<p>Encourage and Plan (1 – 2 min.)</p>	<p>We just learned how to <i>Use Prior Knowledge to Connect with Text</i>. Use this strategy when you read today. It will help you to connect with a text on a deeper level and understand it better. As you read, think about your connections to the setting of the story, the book’s characters, the problems that they have, and the ways that they solve these problems. Ask yourself if the text reminds you of any other books that you have read, movies that you have seen, or stories you have heard. Your prior experiences will help you to make connections.</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 L.5.4 on our Grade 5 CAFE menu or CCSS Grade Level Matrix.</p>

Explore Your Connections

Using your prior knowledge helps you to connect with the text. Remember that you can have connections to a character, a setting, or a problem and solution in the story. As you read a story, jot down notes about the kinds of connections you discover. Include the page number where you made the connection so that you can refer back to it when you talk to other readers or your teacher.

TYPE OF CONNECTION	DESCRIPTION OF MY CONNECTION	HOW THE CONNECTION HELPS ME TO UNDERSTAND THE TEXT	PAGE NUMBER
TO A CHARACTER			
TO THE SETTING			
TO THE PROBLEM			
TO THE SOLUTION			
OTHER			