

# Focus Lesson

## Use Prior Knowledge to Connect with Text

Text: *The Art Lesson* by Tomie dePaolo

<b>CAFE Goal</b>	Comprehension
<b>CAFE Strategy</b>	Use prior knowledge to connect with text
<b>Observe/Relate</b>	<p>Before I read a story, I use my prior knowledge to connect with the text. I look at the cover and see if it reminds me of anything in my own life. Then I begin reading and think about ways that I am like the characters, noticing ways that our lives and experiences are similar. For example, it's easy for me to connect with stories about artists since my mom is an art teacher. I've read many books about famous artists as well. My prior knowledge and experiences help me to make these kinds of connections and enable me to understand the text better.</p>
<b>Teach and Reinforce</b>	<p><b>Establish purpose</b>—Today we are going to learn about the comprehension strategy <b>Use prior knowledge to connect with text.</b></p> <p><b>Create urgency</b>—We are learning to use prior knowledge to connect with text. When we use prior knowledge to connect with text, we might think of ways that we are like the characters in the story, or how our experiences are similar. We might think about other books we have read that remind us of this one. Recalling other books by the same author can be helpful because authors often write about similar topics or characters in their books. It is important for readers to connect with the text because it helps them to understand it better.</p> <p><b>Explicit Teacher Modeling</b>—Listen as I talk share how I connect with <i>The Art Lesson</i>. When I look at the cover, I see a little boy holding a large piece of white paper and a red crayon. When I look at his face and the way he is holding his paper, I think that he looks proud of something he has drawn. Behind him is a table with paints, paintbrushes, and crayons. As a little girl, I loved to draw and paint. Like the boy on the cover of <i>The Art Lesson</i>, I wanted to share my drawings and paintings with my friends and family members. Already I can connect with this text based on what I see on the cover. This is called <b>using prior knowledge to connect with text.</b></p> <p><i>The pages in The Art Lesson are unnumbered. You might want to take a pencil and write the page numbers, marking the title page as page 1.</i></p>

	<p>I am going to begin reading and practice the comprehension strategy <b>Use prior knowledge to connect with text</b>. Listen as I read the story.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Pause after page 5.</i> I can connect to the text because I loved to draw almost as most as Tommy. When I look at the picture on page 5, I remember that I drew for hours and hours. Does anyone else have a connection to what I have just read in the story?</li> <li>• <i>Continue reading to page 11.</i> Tommy used to give his drawings to family members. I gave my drawings to my family as gifts, too. Tommy’s mom put his pictures all around the house; my mom used to do the same with my artwork. I can understand why sharing his artwork made Tommy happy. He felt proud when they displayed his artwork at home or where they worked.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Practice</b></p>	<p>I am going to continue reading and have you try the strategy <b>Use prior knowledge to connect with text</b>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Continue reading pages 12-19. Pause and ask students to turn and talk about their connections. Encourage them to make specific references to parts of the story.</i></li> </ul> <p>Invite a few volunteers to share their connections to the text.</p>
<p><b>Encourage and Plan</b></p>	<p>We just learned and practiced how to <b>use prior knowledge to connect with text</b>. You can see how using prior knowledge to connect with text can help you understand a story more fully. When you share today, tell a partner about how you are connecting to the text you are reading. Be sure to explain how your connections help you to understand the text more fully.</p>
<p><b>Common Core Alignment</b></p>	<p>Use prior knowledge to connect with text is a <b>Common Core State Standard</b> for all grade levels. This lesson could be revised to match your grade-level expectations. Find the standard that aligns with your grade-level on our <a href="#">CAFE Menu/ CCSS Grade Level Matrix</a>.</p>

Explain how you used your prior knowledge to connect with your text.

**The text is about this topic:**

**This is my prior knowledge (what I already know) about the topic:**

**Here are my connections to the text:**