



# Activating and Connecting to Background Knowledge

Good readers activate and connect to pertinent background knowledge when reading.

Background Knowledge:

- Your personal history based on:
  - What you read
  - What you seen
  - Your adventures
  - Experiences of day to day life
  - Your relationships
  - Your passion

Methods of developing background knowledge:

- Storytelling
  - Talking about your own background knowledge with others
- K-W-L or K-W-L-Q charts

Type of Connections:

- Text to self: make a connection between the text and his/her past experience and/or background knowledge.
- Text to text: make a connection between the two similar texts (story, article, poem, play, song)
- Text to world: make a connection between the text and world (school, community, state, nation, world) events and issues

Points of Connections (Literary Elements)

- Characters (motives, thoughts, and feelings)
- Setting
- Plot
- Theme

Points of Connection (Nature of the text)

- Genre
- Format
- Form
- Author

- Text Structure
- Signal words

#### Points of Connection (Content of the text)

- Reinforces information
- Gains additional information
- Contradicts previous knowledge
- Insufficient information

#### Activities for making connections

- Stopping and reflecting
- Using text sets
  - Author or illustrator studies
  - Versions of fairy tales
    - Traditional vs. contemporary
- Graphic organizers that could be used making connections or comparison between text
  - Venn diagrams
  - T charts

#### Activities for building background knowledge

- K-W-L chart
- Anticipation guide

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