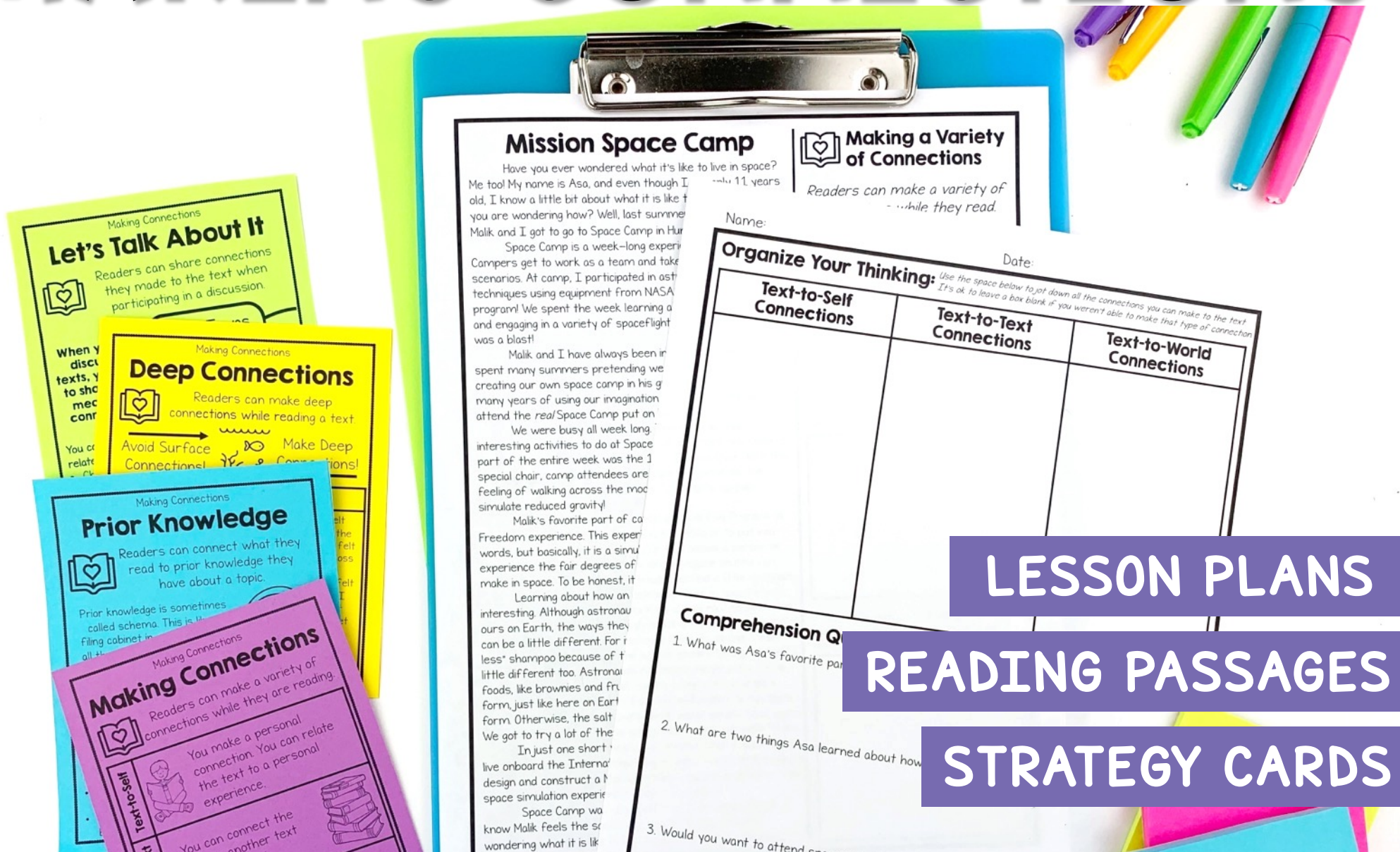


5 reading lessons with passages & comprehension questions

SMALL GROUP LESSONS MAKING CONNECTIONS



Mission Space Camp

Making a Variety of Connections

Have you ever wondered what it's like to live in space? ... 11 years

Readers can make a variety of ... while they read.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Organize Your Thinking:

Use the space below to jot down all the connections you can make to the text. It's ok to leave a box blank if you weren't able to make that type of connection.

Text-to-Self Connections	Text-to-Text Connections	Text-to-World Connections

Comprehension Q

1. What was Asa's favorite part ...
2. What are two things Asa learned about how ...
3. Would you want to attend ...

Let's Talk About It
Readers can share connections they made to the text when participating in a discussion.

Deep Connections
Readers can make deep connections while reading a text.
Avoid Surface Connections → Make Deep Connections!

Prior Knowledge
Readers can connect what they read to prior knowledge they have about a topic.

Making Connections
Readers can make a variety of connections while they are reading.

Text-to-Self
You make a personal connection. You can relate the text to a personal experience.

Text-to-Text
You can connect the text to another text.

LESSON PLANS

READING PASSAGES

STRATEGY CARDS

3

REASONS TO LOVE

THESE SMALL GROUP LESSONS

TIME-SAVING

Stop searching for small group resources. This resource includes EVERYTHING you need for a successful small group lesson focused on making deep and meaningful connections to a text.

LOW PREP

These lessons are seriously just print and teach. Pick the objective you want to cover, print the materials, and you'll be all set to teach your lesson. It will take you just a few minutes each week to print and prep your small group lessons.

EASY TO USE

Each lesson set follows a simple easy-to-use framework. If you are uncertain how to structure your small group lessons, this resource is perfect for you. You can finally feel confident in how you teach your small group lessons.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Organize Your Thinking: *Use the space below to jot down all the prior knowledge you have about the topic of the text. Then use your prior knowledge to help make a really strong connection to the text.*

My Prior Knowledge

My Connection:

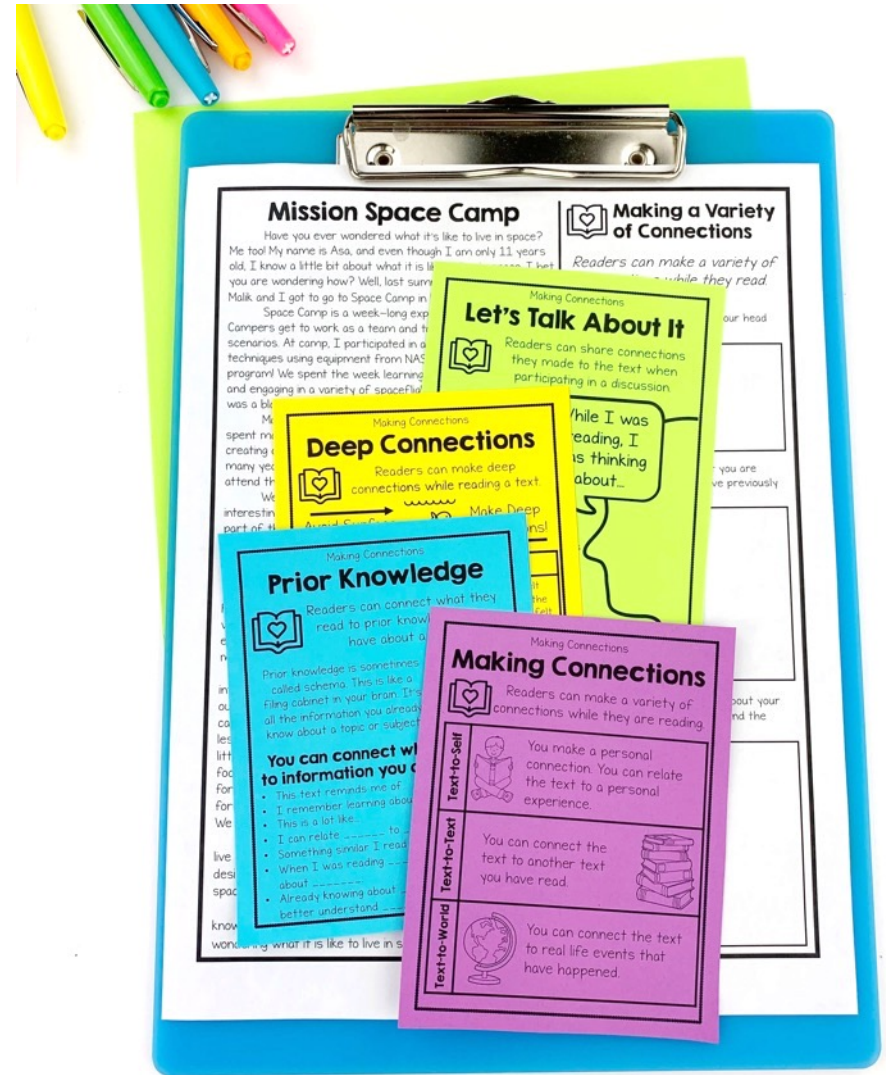
Comprehension Questions:

1. Why did the national spelling bee change its rules in 2019?
2. Other than spelling bee champion, what other success has Zola Avant-garde experienced?
3. How would you describe Zola Avant-garde? Use details from the text to support your answer.

WHAT'S INCLUDED?

5 READING SMALL GROUP LESSON SETS

- 5 Scripted Lesson Plans
- 5 Reading Passages
- 5 Response Sheets/ Graphic Organizers
- 5 Strategy Cards (AKA Mini Anchor Charts)
- Digital Versions
- Answer Key
- Small Group Teacher Guide



WHAT SKILLS DO THESE LESSONS COVER?

- Lesson #1: Making a Variety of Connections
- Lesson #2: Making Deep Connections vs. Surface Level Connections
- Lesson #3: Using Prior Knowledge to Make Connections
- Lesson #4: Using Connections to Make Predictions
- Lesson #5: Sharing Our Connections

Let's Talk About It
Making Connections
Readers can share connections they made to the text when participating in a discussion.

When you are discussing texts, you want to share your meaningful connections.

You can share connections related to:

- Characters & Story Events
- Topic of the Text
- Theme or Lesson
- Attributes of the Genre
- Author's Purpose
- Author's Point of View

While I was reading, I was thinking about...

Deep Connections
Making Connections
Readers can make deep connections while reading a text.

Avoid Surface Connections! → Make Deep Connections!

Surface	Deep
I play soccer and so does Fred.	I knew how Fred felt when his team lost the big game. I think he felt responsible for the loss since he missed the goal. I remember the same way when I missed a goal and made me feel like my team down made me question my soccer skills. I felt something...

Prior Knowledge
Making Connections
Readers can connect what they read to prior knowledge they have about a topic.

Prior knowledge is sometimes called schema. This is like a filing cabinet in your brain. It's all the information you already know about a topic or subject.

You can connect what you read to information you already know

- This text reminds me of _____
- I remember learning about _____
- This is a lot like _____
- I can relate _____ to _____
- Something similar I read was _____
- When I was reading _____ it made me think about _____
- Already knowing about _____ helped me better understand _____

Making Connections
Making Connections
Readers can make a variety of connections while they are reading.

Text-to-Self
You make a personal connection. You can relate the text to a personal experience.

Text-to-Text
You can connect the text to another text you have read.

Text-to-World
You can connect the text to real life events that have happened.

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WHO NEEDS THIS RESOURCE?

THIS RESOURCE IS PERFECT IF YOU ARE A...

STRATEGY LESSON #2
FOCUS: DEEP CONNECTIONS

Objective: Students will be able to make deep connections while reading a text.

TARGET
1-2 min

- Today we are going to talk about the difference between deep connections and surface level connections.
- When we learn how to make deep connections, it helps us connect to a text in a more meaningful way.
- Rather than connecting to the very basic surface level details (like the main character is a boy and I'm a boy), we will be able to think about key details the author shared on a much deeper level.

TEACH
1-2 min

Today we want to practice making deep connections.

- When we are connecting to a text, we want to avoid surface level connections such as, I play soccer and so does Fred.
- These surface level connections don't really help us understand the text on a deeper level.
- Instead we want to make a deep and meaningful connection to one part of the text. This means that when we make our connection, we go beyond the surface and connect to things like emotions, life lessons, internal thoughts, or even connecting to what we think the author was considering as they were writing the text.
- A deep connection will give you a much better understanding of the text.
- Let's look at the example on the strategy card to see an example of a deep vs. surface level connection.

TACKLE
5-7 min

Now it's your turn to try and make a deep connection on your own.

Teacher Notes:

- *Ideally, students would be able to bring their independent reading texts to the strategy group. If you prefer to have all students using the same text, you can use the text *Different Like Me* to help students apply this specific strategy.*
- *While students are reading and practicing this strategy independently, you want to check-in and talk with each student about how they are applying the strategy. Keep the discussion focused on their thinking vs. listening to them read.*
- *If you choose to use the shared text and students are reading the text for the first time, you might need to provide more time for this portion of the lesson. One way you can keep your strategy lessons more concise and still use a shared text is by providing students with the text prior to coming to the strategy group. This will make sure that while they are at the table, all they are focusing on is applying the strategy.*

TRANSFER
2-3 min

Discuss:

- Who can share a surface level connection they made to the text and how they turned it into a deep connection?
- Why do we want to try and make deep level connections vs. surface level connections.

Link:

- Remember, anytime you are reading a text, you want to focus on making deep connections. This will help you understand the text in a more meaningful way.

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- 4th or 5th grade reading teacher
- 3rd grade teacher with strong readers
- 6th grade teacher looking for remedial resources
- Intervention teacher
- Tutor
- Literacy coach looking for resource for your teachers
- Parent who wants to provide enrichment at home
- Student teacher

Just print the set you want to teach, and you're set for a stellar small group lesson.

LOW PREP and EASY-TO-USE



STRATEGY LESSON #1 FOCUS: MAKING CONNECTIONS



Objective: Students will be able to identify a variety of connections while they are reading.

TARGET 1-2 min

- One of the things that strong readers do is make connections between what they read and what they know.
- We can make connections to any type of text.
- As you are reading, you might notice something that connects to something you read about in your real life. This is called a connection.

There are different ways that you can make connections.

- **Text to Self**
 - You can make a personal connection to the text.
 - Think about a similar problem or experience you have had.
- **Text to Text**
 - You can connect the text to another text.
 - Think about texts in the same genre or about the same topic that you have previously read.
 - You can even connect two texts to each other.
- **Text to World**
 - You can connect the text to something you know about the world.
 - Think about current events or things you have seen or heard about.
- **Text to Media**
 - You can connect the text to something you have seen or heard in a movie, TV show, or video.
 - Think about different types of media.

Each type of connection can help you understand the text better. We have experienced or know about some of these connections. Let's take a look at the strategy cards. **Teacher Notes:** There is a single strategy card for each type of connection. Print them out for your students.

Now it's your turn to try this strategy. **Teacher Notes:**

- Ideally, students would have all the strategy cards to help students apply the strategy.
- While students are reading, have them think about the text vs. listening to the text.
- If you choose to use the strategy cards, print them out for your students.

TACKLE 5-7 min

Another Chance to Walk

Derrick Campana's workshop walls are lined with ovens, vacuum parts, sewing machines, and other machinery. At first glance, it may be difficult to determine what line of work Derrick is in and it probably isn't at all what you'd think!

Derrick and his team use the tools and spare parts to build prosthetic and orthotic devices for animals!

A JOB THAT MAKES A DIFFERENCE
Prosthetic and orthotic devices are created to assist with walking. Derrick is an expert in the creation of these devices specifically for animals. His goal is to give disabled pets and farm animals more options for mobility. He creates braces and replacement limbs so animals with limited mobility have the chance to get around again!

Before helping animals, Derrick went to school and built prosthetics and orthotics for humans. He always loved animals and made the switch to helping animals after a veterinarian brought a dog in need of a prosthetic to his office. It inspired him to make the change. Derrick owns Bionic Pets in Sterling, Virginia and just finished filming the second season of his tv show, "Wizard of Paws."

A DECADE OF TREATING ANIMALS
Derrick has helped



Making a Variety of Connections

Readers can make a variety of connections while they read.

1. What thoughts popped into your head as you were reading?

2. How can you connect what you are reading to something you have previously read, or experienced?

TAKE A CLOSER LOOK...

SCRIPTED TEACHER LESSON PLANS

Focuses on one bite-sized objective.

Each lesson follows the same 4T lesson structure: Target, Teach, Tackle, Transfer.

Includes the exact words and phrases you should say to help your students master the objective.

STRATEGY LESSON #2
FOCUS: DEEP CONNECTIONS

Objective: Students will be able to make deep connections while reading a text.

TARGET
1-2 min

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TEACH
1-2 min

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2-3 min

Discuss:

- Who can share a surface level connection they made to the text and how they turned it into a deep connection?
- Why do we want to try and make deep level connections vs. surface level connections.

Link:

- Remember, anytime you are reading a text, you want to focus on making deep connections. This will help you understand the text in a more meaningful way.

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TAKE A CLOSER LOOK...

STUDENT PASSAGES & RESPONSE PAGES

Student passage written for each lesson objective.

Questions to help students apply the focus skill to the passage.

Includes graphic organizer & three general comprehension questions.

Hobby or Harmful?

Netflix. Hulu. Amazon Prime. YouTube. These are all video streaming platforms that give us instant access to countless hours of movies and tv series episodes. It's such an easy way to pass the time, right? What seems like a harmless hobby to some, may actually be more harmful than we realize.

Binge-watch is a term used to describe watching many episodes of a show, one after another, in a short period of time. Have you heard this term before? It is much more common than it use to be! In fact, the phrase binge-watch wasn't really a part of our vocabulary until 2003 and became increasingly popular in 2013. Now close to three-fourths of Americans admit to binge-watching.

With its increased popularity, many are beginning to wonder if the activity is a harmless hobby or a potentially harmful addiction? Consider these pros and cons, then you can decide for yourself!

First, studies have shown that binge-watching has led to beneficial social connections by creating a sense of community around a show. Viewers discuss their enjoyment for a show and ultimately build a stronger relationship by sharing interests and similarities. This can potentially increase healthy communication amongst families too.

Studies around binge-watching have also shown that a chemical called dopamine is released in the brain during the activity. This chemical is responsible for creating the feeling of happiness, which may also relieve stress. Indulging in a binge-watching session can help our brains 'take a break' from the stressors of everyday life.

Some researchers say too much of a good thing is no longer a good thing. A study conducted at the University of Texas revealed that binge-watchers can be more likely to experience negative feelings such as sadness or loneliness. Participating in too much binge-watching can result in more negative habits like neglecting important daily tasks or other interests. Dr. Renee Carr is a psychologist, she says that although the release of dopamine can be a good thing, too much can lead to a problem.

Staying up all night to binge-watch the newest release of a tv show? Studies have shown that binge-watching can also be connected to poor sleep and extreme tiredness. Choosing binge-watching over sleep can lead to harmful consequences.

So, binge-watching? Fun hobby or harmful habit? What do you think?

Let's Talk About It!

Readers can share connections they made to the text while participating in a discussion.

1. What details about binge-watching stuck out to you?

2. How did you connect to this text?

3. What connection would be worth sharing with a friend? Why?

Graphic Organizer:

Surface Thinking: Try to make one surface level connection to each passage mentioned in the text. Then turn that surface level connection into a deep connection.

Surface Connection:

Deep Connection:

Connection:

Deep Connection:

Questions:

1. What would be a good title for this text?

2. What is similar in this text?

3. How do you feel? Are you inspired in anyway?

TAKE A CLOSER LOOK...

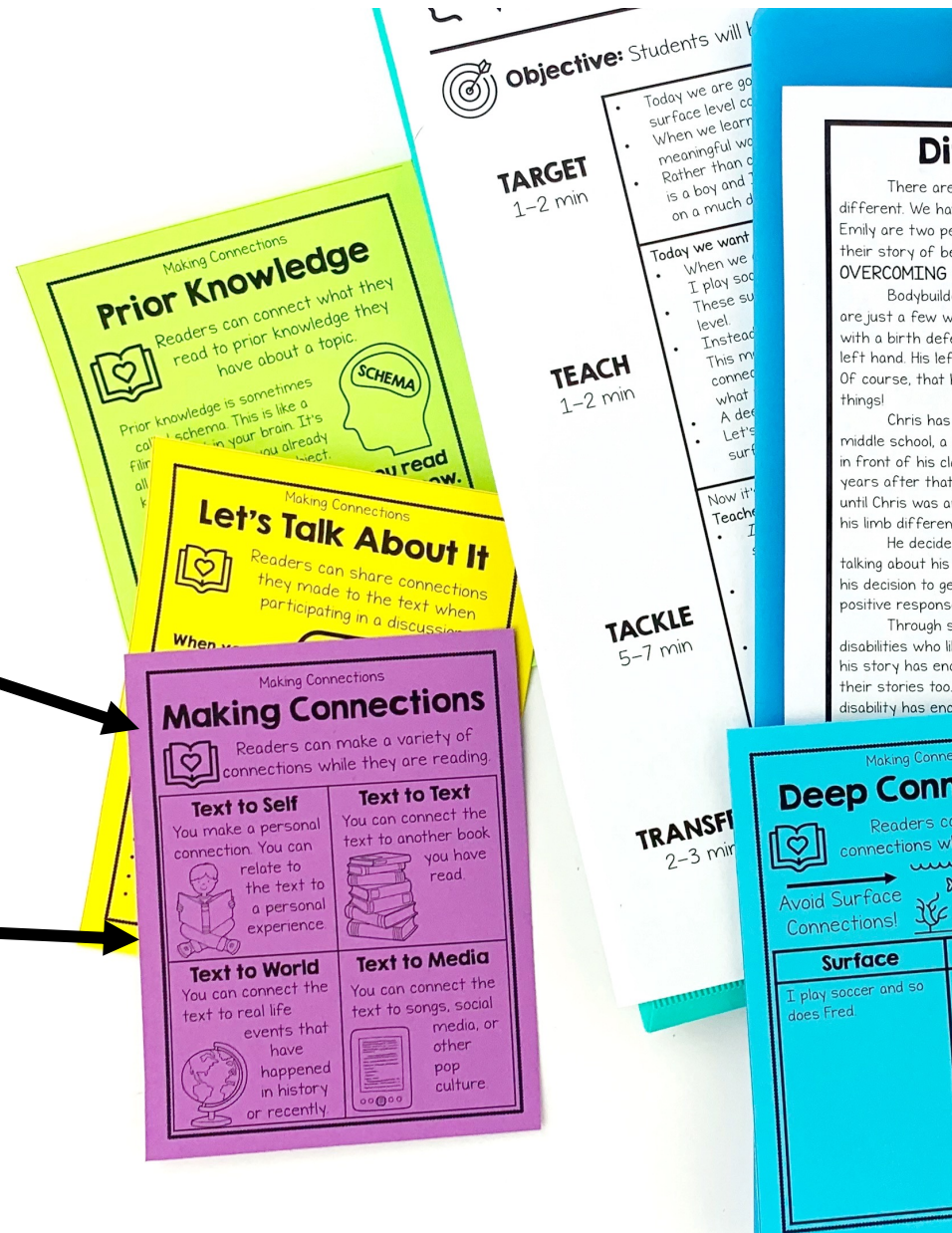
STRATEGY CARDS (AKA MINI ANCHOR CHARTS)

Strategy card for each lesson objective.

Student friendly definition or explanation.

Includes questions, steps, a process, or a visual reminder of how to apply that focus skill.

Great to place on a strategy ring!



Hobby or Harmful?

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works in both
VIRTUAL &
In person
CLASSROOMS

INCLUDES TEACHER GUIDE

Are you new to using small groups in your classroom?
No worries! We got you!

This resource also includes a 2 page teaching guide PDF that walks you through all the ins and outs of strategy groups. You also get a generic strategy group lesson plan along with sentence starters so you can create your own strategy lesson plans.

Strategy Group FAQs
Strategy groups are an effective tool for...
group instruction, it can...
Here are some...

TEACHING GUIDE: Strategy Groups

What is a strategy group?
A strategy group is a small group reading lesson that focuses on teaching students a reading strategy that will help them be more independent readers. Strategy groups are short-term, include students from a variety of reading levels, and provide guided support for students who all seem to struggle with a specific reading skill. You can pull a strategy group for ANYTHING that will help your students grow as readers - book selection, comprehension skill, responding to reading etc.

Why should I prioritize strategy groups?

- Strategy groups can save you time. When you identify students who have similar needs you can address all of them in a strategy group.
- It helps fill in the gaps. Not every student in your guided reading groups will have ALL the same skills, even if they are all on the same level. You can use strategy groups to fill in the gaps for students across multiple levels.
- Practicing reading strategies in small group can be much more engaging for students than independent practice.
- Some students need more support than others and strategy groups are another way you can help students become more independent with the strategies you teach.

Strategy Group Reminders:

- Small Group Instruction
- 10 minutes
- Focused on ONE strategy
- Students from various levels
- Students can use their own text

How should I structure my strategy group?
Strategy groups are meant to be short and concise. This is a time to reinforce, remind, and practice a strategy that students have been previously taught either during a whole group mini-lesson or in a guided reading lesson. The goal is to give students a quick win that will help them experience some comprehension success. The following can be a really effective framework for strategy group lessons.

Target	Teach	Tackle	Transfer
Tell students why they have been gathered together and share the target skill/strategy you will be focusing on. Be explicit. Tell them WHAT the skill is, and HOW it will help them as a reader.	Teach students a very specific process or set of steps they should follow. Quickly model what this will look like in a text you are reading. Remind students of the first time you taught this skill/strategy and discuss how it helps them as readers.	Give students time to tackle the target skill on their own. Let them practice with the independent book they brought to the strategy group or a short text you provide. During this time check in with each student, and see if they are able to apply the target skill.	Prepare students to apply this skill/strategy to future independent reading texts. Restate target skill and ask students to explain how it helps them as a reader and the steps they can take to apply that skill to their reading.
1-2 minutes	1-2 minutes	5-7 minutes	2-3 minutes

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NEED MORE THAN JUST THIS SET?

CHECK OUT SOME OF MY OTHER SMALL GROUP LESSON SETS.

107 scripted lesson sets to teach key reading skills

STRATEGY LESSONS YEAR - LONG Bundle

LESSON PLANS
READING PASSAGES
STRATEGY CARDS

[Click HERE for the bundle.](#)

includes comprehension questions & graphic organizers

STRATEGY LESSONS MAIN IDEA

12 LESSONS

LESSON PLANS
READING PASSAGES
STRATEGY CARDS

[Click HERE for the main idea set.](#)

scripted lesson sets to teach key fiction reading skills

STRATEGY LESSONS STORY EVENTS

10 LESSONS

LESSON PLANS
READING PASSAGES
STRATEGY CARDS

[Click HERE for the plot set.](#)

includes comprehension questions & graphic organizers

STRATEGY LESSONS TEXT EVIDENCE

8 LESSONS

LESSON PLANS
PASSAGES
STRATEGY CARDS

[Click HERE for the text evidence set.](#)

scripted lessons and passages to teach theme

STRATEGY LESSONS THEME

4 LESSONS

LESSON PLANS
READING PASSAGES
STRATEGY CARDS

[Click HERE for the theme set.](#)

includes comprehension questions & graphic organizers

STRATEGY LESSONS AUTHOR'S PURPOSE

10 LESSONS

LESSON PLANS
READING PASSAGES
STRATEGY CARDS

[Click HERE for the author's purpose set.](#)

LET'S CONNECT



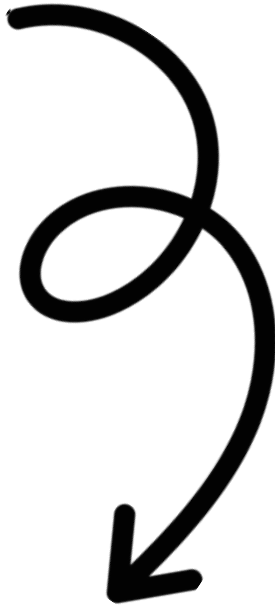
My favorite way to help support and encourage teachers is with my weekly podcast! Have you tuned in yet?

STELLAR TEACHER PODCAST

with Sara Marye



Each week I share actionable tips and easy strategies that you can implement immediately. Tune in on your drive to work or as you're setting up your classroom for the day.



[CLICK HERE TO LISTEN TO THE LATEST EPISODE!](#)

Be sure to follow and subscribe on your favorite podcast player app!