

Parents' CLIPBOARD

SECONDARY LEVEL

BY THE PARENTS & READING COMMITTEE OF THE COLORADO COUNCIL, INTERNATIONAL READING ASSOCIATION

Talk It Up!

Talking with another person about one's reading and connecting it to personal experiences is one of the joys of being literate. It is how we clarify our thinking, solidify our learning, and get answers to our questions. Yet, when it comes to talking to our children about their reading, we many times interrogate them instead.

"Did you finish your reading?"

"What about the study questions?"

"What did the chapter say?"

We never interrogate our peers about their reading. Rather, we share our learning and discuss issues. We have thoughtful conversations based on connections we made to the text.

It is important to have the same thoughtful conversations with our children. Helping students make text to self, text to text, and text to world connections to what they read is one of the most powerful and enjoyable things we can do to initiate discussion about reading.

Text to Self Connections

These are connections between the text and the reader's memories, experiences, and prior learning.

Conversation starters might include:

- When you read that passage, what did it remind you of?
- I remember when you
- That paragraph reminds me of the time when I
- Have you ever

Text to Text Connections

These are connections the reader makes among texts.

This might include movie scripts, speeches, ads, newspaper articles, magazine articles, short stories, television programs, poems, textbooks, novels, and so on.

Conversation starters might include:

- That passage reminds me of the movie we saw last week.
- An article in _____ said much the same thing.
- I read a novel similar to the one you are reading when.....
- A program on television yesterday said.....

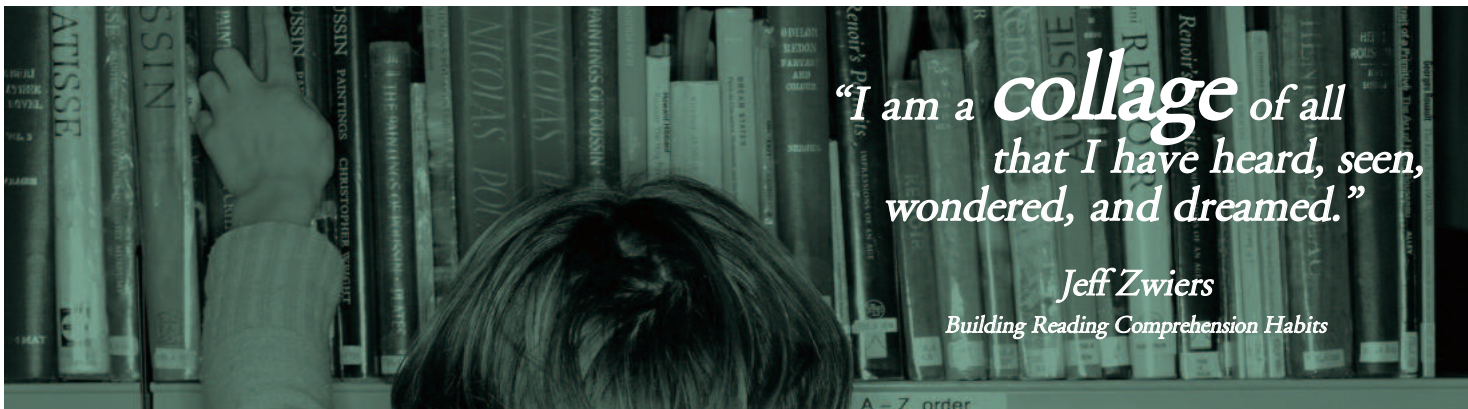
Text to World Connections

These are connections the reader makes between the text and things that have happened in the world.

Conversation starters might include:

- Do you remember the same thing happened when
- I wonder what would happen if ?
- Last year
- The countries in the are having the same difficulty.
- The President gave a similar speech

Thoughtful conversation that makes connections for students to what they are reading and experiencing in the world around them, promotes higher order thinking skills. It helps children become better at problem solving. It also encourages more productive peer collaboration and helps students produce more thoughtful writing.



"I am a collage of all that I have heard, seen, wondered, and dreamed."

Jeff Zwiers

Building Reading Comprehension Habits