Teacher Guide to Online Activity: Making Connections - Mountain of Understanding

Summary:

Students will make connections to help their character "climb" the Mountain of Understanding. There are three levels to this activity.

- In level one, students choose **meaningful connections** that help them understand the provided text.
- In level two, students choose text-to self, text-to-text, or text-to world connections.
- In level three, students write their own connections.

To view the standards this activity addresses, visit: http://reading.ecb.org/teacher/standards.html



Third graders found this activity challenging when compared to the other Into the Book online activities.

Teaching Tips:

If students are using iPads, remind them they can use *Siri* (an iPad feature that will type student input into the text fields).

During this activity, students sometimes find it challenging to:

- Choose the correct connection
 - o Tell students to look for clues in the texts and to think about the meaning of the sentences, not just the words.
- Struggling readers may find it challenging to read the connections. They may need assistance as the narrator does not read the connections.

Before you start:

- Review the idea of meaningful connections; those that help you understand something in the text. Students often begin by noticing only obvious connections (like "both stories are about pizza"). The connections they must find in this activity may not be obvious unless they think about the meaning behind the sentences.
- Tell students what you would like them to do when they finish the activity (print/email their answers, listen to the Making Connections song, etc.)

After you finish:

- Review students' connections from level three to see whether they were able to come up with meaningful text-to-self, text-to-text, and text-to-world connections.
- Discuss the connections students helped the stone quardian make in levels one and two.
 - o Which connections were obvious to you? Explain your thinking.
 - o Which connections were difficult for you? Explain your thinking
 - o Explain to each other one of the connections you made.
- Point out that the stone guardian made connections while reading all different kinds of texts: comic books, letters, magazine articles, etc. You can too! Try keeping a box of real world texts such as these in your classroom for students to read.





Screen-by-screen Preview:

Choose Mountain of Understanding to begin the activity.



MAKING CONNECTIONS: Try it Yours

Into the Book

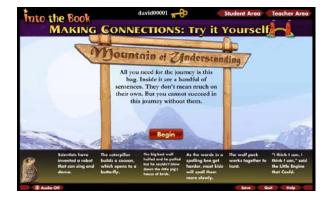
Next, watch a short video tutorial about how to do the activity.

Then click:

- Start Connecting to begin the activity
- Replay to play the tutorial again
- Watch Video to watch a clip from Into the Book that reviews making connections

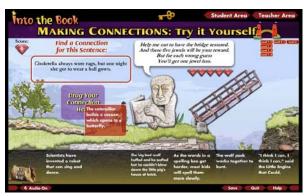
In levels one and two, you are given a bag of connections. These appear at the bottom of the screen.

Click **Begin** to start the activity.



Use the right arrow key (arrow on the screen for iPad) to move the avatar along the mountain. When the stone guardian is reached, he will read a sentence that confuses him.

Choose a connection from the bag that helps to understand the text and drag it to the purple box.







If the connection does not help the guardian understand, it will pop back to the bag and remain highlighted in red. Once jewel is lost for each incorrect connection. If all connections are chosen correctly the first time, the score is 43 jewels.

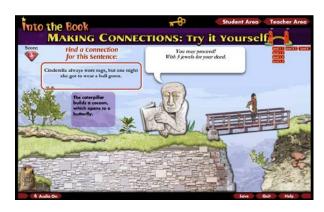
Once the correct connection is chosen, the bridge will close and the player may continue the journey. Continue to move the avatar using the arrow keys.

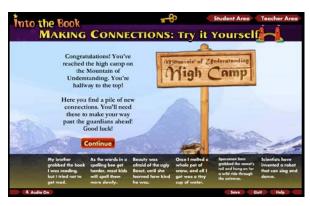
A large sign signals the end of level one. Additional connections for level two will also appear in the bag.

Click **continue** to proceed to the next level. The activity is the same in level two, except connections must be either text-to-text, text-to-self, or text-to-world as instructed by the guardian. In level three, students must type their own text-to-text, text-to-self, and text-to-world connections.

Once all three levels are complete, the avatar appears at the top of the Mountain of Understanding, and the user's name is "carved" into the mountain.

Click Done with Activity.







After the activity, click:

- Print Bookmark and Connections to print a bookmark and the personal connections from level three
- Listen to Making Connections Song
- Play Making Connections Again to play climb the Mountain of Understanding again
- Go to Slingshot to Understanding, another making connections activity
- Go Back to the Student Main Menu.





