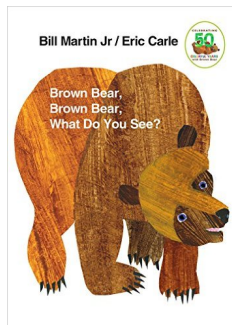


Connect to the Story

Brown Bear, Brown Bear What Do You See

By Bill Martin Jr. and Eric Carle



Description:

Have fun with this predictable patterned book that spotlights animals and colors in a collage style.

Connection:

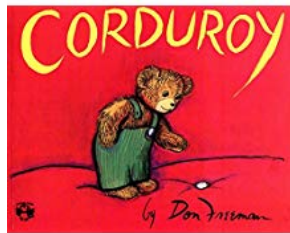
Making connections with familiar books is a wonderful way to begin to teach this strategy. In addition, the Brown Bear story can be a real comfort to all those nervous faces during the first few days of school. As soon as the children see the book cover, you'll hear, "I know this book!" This is the perfect opening to say, "Let's talk about it. Tell me what you know." Usually that's all that's needed but you can always ask questions about animal names and colors to keep the conversation going.

In the beginning it's not necessary to label the strategy, just do it and let the children experience the discussion. In a few days tell the children that the talking you've been doing before you read a book is called Connect to the Story. We do that to get our ears and brains ready to listen.

Connect to the Story

Corduroy

Written and Illustrated by Don Freeman



Description:

Corduroy is a lonely stuffed bear living on a store shelf. After some harrowing adventures, a little girl named Lisa buys him and takes him home to be her special friend.

Connection:

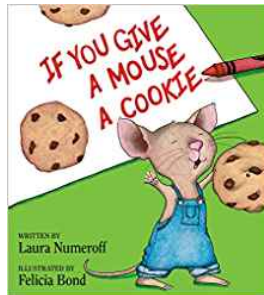
Children love to hear connections teachers make to their own lives. If you heard this book read as a child, be sure and tell the children how it made you feel. (You can even make something up, the children are none the wiser.)

When books were written many years ago, I often share how old I was or that I wasn't even born yet. It can give the children some reference point for how long the book has been around. Corduroy was written in 1968, so you do the math.

Connect to the Story

If You Give a Mouse a Cookie

Written by Laura Numeroff...Illustrated by Felicia Bond



Description:

Mouse wants a cookie. Once he gets the cookie it leads him to something else, then something else and on and on. Finally, the mouse is back to the cookie and it begins again.

Connection:

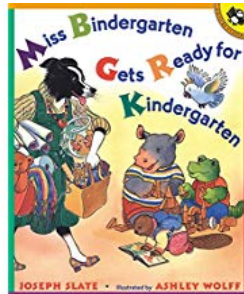
Any discussion of this book will, at some point, revolve around cookies. What kind do you like? Ask your students to give you a thumbs-up as you list different flavors. This can give the quiet student a way to participate in connecting with the story without having to say a word.

This book is a good example of a circle story. The action continues and continues. The last event leads you to the beginning and it all starts over. Once children understand the concept, they will point it out in other stories.

Connect to the Story

Miss Bindergarten Gets Ready for Kindergarten

Written by Joseph Slate...Illustrated by Ashley Wolfe



Description:

The Miss Bindergarten book gives us an inside look at the first day of Kindergarten. From the teacher, to the students to the classroom, there are many similarities to classrooms everywhere.

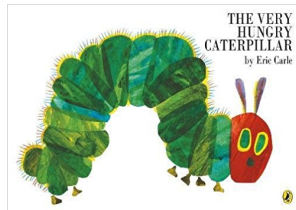
Connection:

Do all Kindergarten teachers read this story on the first day of school? I hope so. There are a multitude of connections to be made...before, during and after the reading. Before reading, point out the Miss Bindergarten illustrations. It's morning and she's getting ready for the first day of school. This is a good lead in to discuss what the children did that morning. During the book, highlight the lizard character, Ian. He's says, "I won't go." Here's a chance to mention that everyone felt a little anxious this morning, even the teacher. After finishing the reading, make connections between Mrs. Bindergarten's room and the children's classroom. It's a picture-perfect way to begin the year.

Connect to the Story

The Very Hungry Caterpillar

By Eric Carle



Description:

Eric Carle shows the journey of a tiny egg traveling through various stages until it becomes a stunning butterfly. The colors are brilliant, as is the surprise hole the caterpillar has made on each page. Every child should have a chance, sometime in their life, to hold this book in his or her hands and stroll through the pages.

Connection:

The classic children's book. Before you begin reading say, "There is something special in this book on almost every page. Can anyone tell me what it is?" If no one guesses then give another clue. Make a little circle with your fingers, peek through and say, "You can touch it and look through it." If someone guesses then it's time to read and enjoy. If no one guesses then it's time to read and discover.