



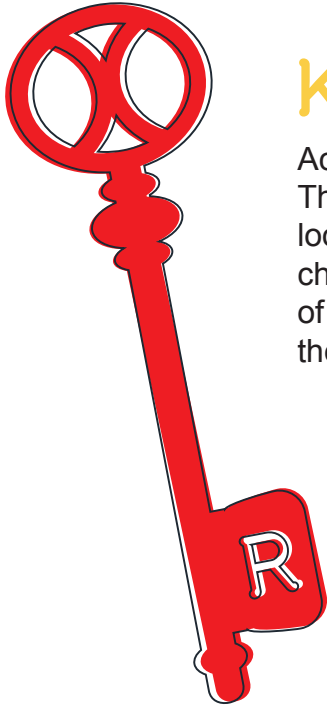
Connect to the Story

Keys to
Comprehension

**Ruby
Reader**

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Connect to the Story



Keys for the Teacher

Activating prior knowledge before reading a text is an important step. This habit is analogous to stretching before exercise class begins. You loosen muscles and become receptive to what lies ahead. Most young children are masters at this skill. Every detail mentioned reminds them of something. The trick is to keep the children focused specifically on the text.

Keys for the Children

Good readers connect their brains to stories before they even begin to read.

Lesson

A wonderful way to introduce this concept is to begin with two big paper clips. Explain that we are going to pretend that one paper clip is a book and the other paper clip is our brain. Share that when we see the cover of a book or hear the title, our brain quickly begins to think about what we already know that matches the book. Link the paper clips together and point out that when we connect the book and our brain together, we're ready to read. Clarify that when your brain is ready, it will be easier to figure out words and understand the story.

Each read aloud is another opportunity to model this strategy. Vary these discussions regularly by having students share their thoughts with an "elbow buddy." This gives everyone an opportunity to talk to activate their brain and deepen their thinking.

Challenge the children to connect to a story each time they read. Have students help make a list of questions they could ask themselves.

“What do I notice about this book?”

“What does this book make me think of?”

“Have I seen this before?”

