**MAKING CONNECTIONS**

**SUMMARY**

*Thank You, Mr. Falker* is a story of Trisha, a little girl who could hardly wait for school to start. Trisha could paint and draw beautiful pictures but when she looked at the words and letters on a page, all she could see was a jumbled mess. Because Trisha could not read, she quickly fell behind in school. Her classmates began to bully her and call her dumb. Before long, Trisha began to believe the mean things her classmates said. Then her family moved to California where she met Mr. Falker. Mr. Falker was Trisha’s fifth grade teacher. He was different from every teacher Trisha had before. He wore striped coats and butterfly ties and he thought that Trisha was brilliant. Mr. Falker realized that Trisha was a smart and talented girl with a very unique problem. Mr. Falker did not call Trisha dumb. Instead her solved her problem and taught her to read.

**LINK TO WHAT YOU KNOW**

- Think of a time when you felt dumb. Why did you feel dumb?
- Think of a time when you tried to do something but found it difficult. How did you feel?
- What does the word “bully” mean?

**Read Thank You, Mr. Falker once from beginning to end**

**WHY DO READERS MAKE CONNECTIONS?**

Readers make connections to better understand a text. There are three types of connections that readers make.

The first type of connection is a **text to self** connection. When a reader makes a **text to self** connection, they compare the characters or events in the book to their own lives. This helps the reader to understand how a character might be feeling or what they might be thinking. This also helps the reader to better understand the events, problems and solutions within a book.

The second type of connection readers make is a **text to text** connection. When a reader makes a **text to text** connection, they compare the characters and events in a book to another book that they have read. This helps the reader to predict what might happen next in the book based on what they know about other books.

The third type of connection readers make is a **text to world** connection. When a reader makes a **text to world** connection, they compare the characters and events in the book to something that has happened in the real world. This helps the reader to understand the characters actions or the sequence of events within a book. Have fun thinking through reading!
READ
Read the book again and stop on the following pages. Think about the characters and events in the book. Do they remind you of times in your life? Do the characters and events remind you of another book you have read or something in the real world?

Page 10: What text-to-self connections can you make so far? Do Trisha’s experiences make you think of something that has happened in your life? How does your connection help you better understand the book?

Page 16: What text-to-text connections can you make so far? Do the characters and events in this book remind you of other books you’ve read? Which books?

Page 26: What other connections can you make? Do the events in Thank You, Mr. Falker remind you of something you’ve seen in the real world? What text-to-world connections can you make?

Page 35: Can you make any other connections? What is the most meaningful connection you can make to this book?

THINK
Think about the connections that you made while reading the book. Which types of connections did you use the most?

TALK
Talk to the person who read this book with you. Explain how you made connections while reading this book. Talk about the parts that reminded you of something in your own life. Talk about the parts that reminded you of other books or about things in the real world.

REFLECT
Readers always reflect on what they read. They think about the following:
- What were the most important parts to remember in Thank You, Mr. Falker?
- Why are the parts you chose most important?
- How did you connect this book to other things that you know?

WRITE
Turn to the Making Connections section in your notebook and write about the work you did while reading Thank You, Mr. Falker.

Tips for Making Connections
When readers make connections it is helpful to make meaningful connections that improve understanding. Look at the examples of connections to Thank You, Mr. Falker below:

Meaningful Connection:
I struggled when learning to read too.

Not Meaningful Connections:
I know a girl named Trisha
MAKING CONNECTIONS

Think about the book. What does this book remind you of? Can you connect a part of this book to something that has happened in your life?

Draw a picture of your connection.

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Write a sentence about your picture.

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