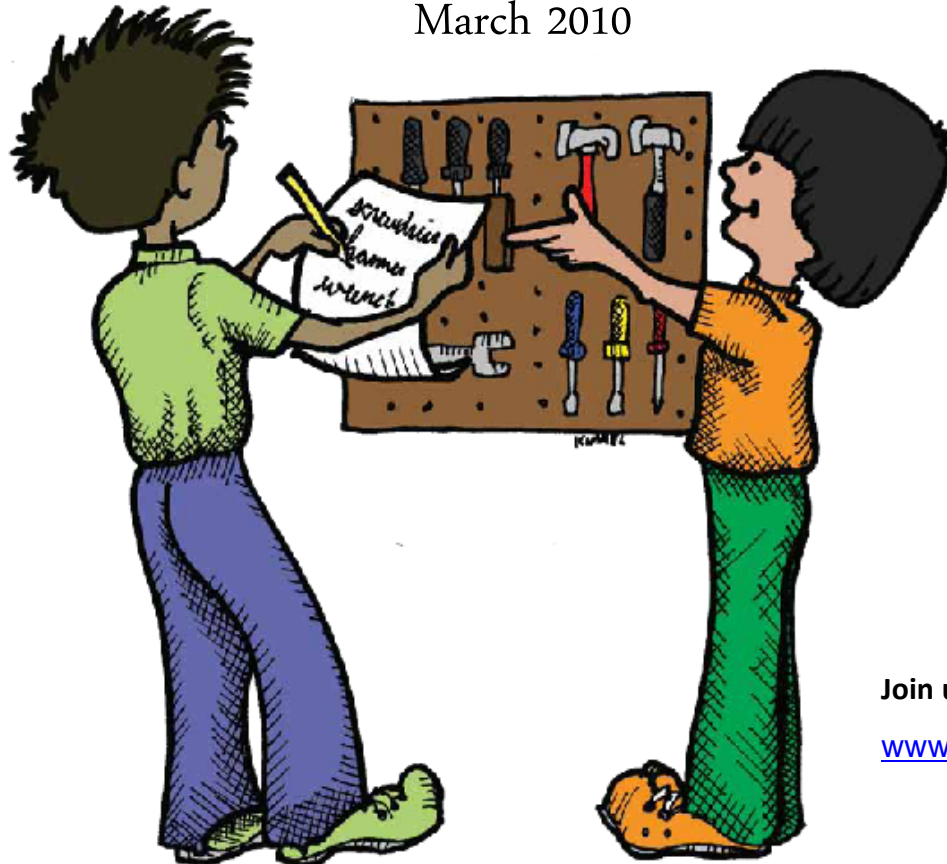




E-TOOLS

March 2010



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“For readers, there must be a million autobiographies, since we seem to find, in book after book, the trace of our lives.” – Stan Persky
(quoted in *7 Keys to Comprehension*, by Susan Zimmerman and Chryse Hutchins ©2003)



March TOPIC: Connections

This month we’re going to talk a little bit about comprehension. Specifically we’re going to talk about building background knowledge. When students can make connections to the text, it helps them to better understand what they are reading. Connections are always personal to the reader, but as educators we can ask questions that might spark their thinking.

See the chart on the right for the three types of connections – text to text, text to self, and text to world. On the pages that follow, we’ll share a few books and give you some potential connections for each. By being intentional about thinking about connections, it will help readers build the background knowledge that in turn will make them better readers!

Text to Self: You make connections between something you’ve read and something from your personal life.

Text to Text: You make connections between what you’re reading and something you’ve read or seen or heard such as a painting, movie, television program, or song.

Text to World: You make connections between what you’ve read and the broader world. These are often bigger “Idea” connections.

-- From *7 Keys to Comprehension* by Susan Zimmerman and Chryse Hutchins.



For more information or to register for workshops & events go to:
www.joyofclass.org or call us at the C.L.A.S.S. office: phone (317) 572-1576

Special Events

Support Team Days

Pack up your group of teacher leaders from your school and come join us for a day of strategies, fun and engagement.

SPRING SUPPORT TEAM DAY

March 12, 2010

New Augusta Public Academy North
Indianapolis, IN

Model Teaching Days

Seeing is Believing! Experience a C.L.A.S.S. classroom in action, facilitated by a C.L.A.S.S. coach. A great day to see best practices in action.

April 15 Noblesville, IN North Elementary

2010 Summer Events

Summer Institute

Travel with us to the C.L.A.S.S. Islands! Save the dates and register early. We'll see you there!

June 22 – 25, 2010

Pike Freshman Center
Indianapolis, IN

Best Practices Conference

Join us for three strategy packed days dealing with gender differences, literacy, differentiation, brain research, behavior, leadership and cultural diversity.

3 Locations

June 8-10 / Kansas City, MO

July 20-22 / Indianapolis, IN

July 27-29 / Davenport, IA

Workshops

Classroom Management Workshop

The agenda for this one-day workshop will include: How Poverty Affects Behavior; Behavior Strategies for Gender Differences; The Use of Emotion to Develop Positive Behavior and more.

March 24, 2010

Bethel College
Mishawaka, IN

Best Practice Workshops

C.L.A.S.S. Brain-Based Teaching Tools

April 13 Noblesville, IN

Presenter: Ruby Butler

Can You Differentiate Instruction? Yes I Can!

April 20, Noblesville, IN

Presenter: Jim McMillan

Download Event Registration Forms or
Register On-Line for Summer Events:

www.joyofclass.org



5975 Castle Creek Parkway N Dr

Castle Creek VI – Suite 475

Indianapolis, IN 46250

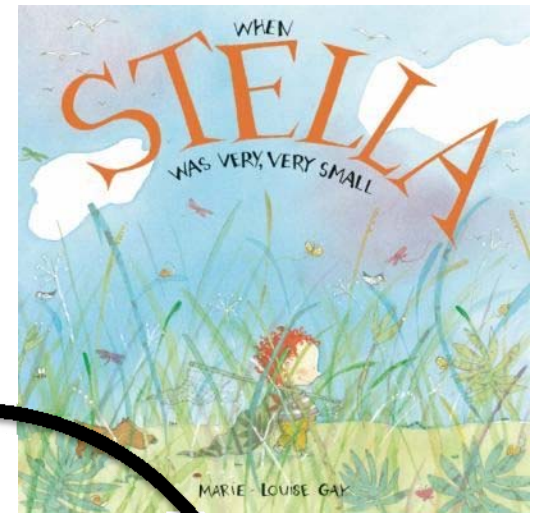
Phone: 317-572-1576 Fax: 317-579-9358

Email: class@joyofclass.org Web: www.joyofclass.org

See the *C.L.A.S.S. Service Brochure* for
workshop descriptions and find additional
event details on the C.L.A.S.S. website:

www.joyofclass.org

When Stella was Very,
Very Small
by Marie-Louise Gay



Text to Text

- Students might remember what it was like when they were small.
- Students might relate to teaching a younger sibling.

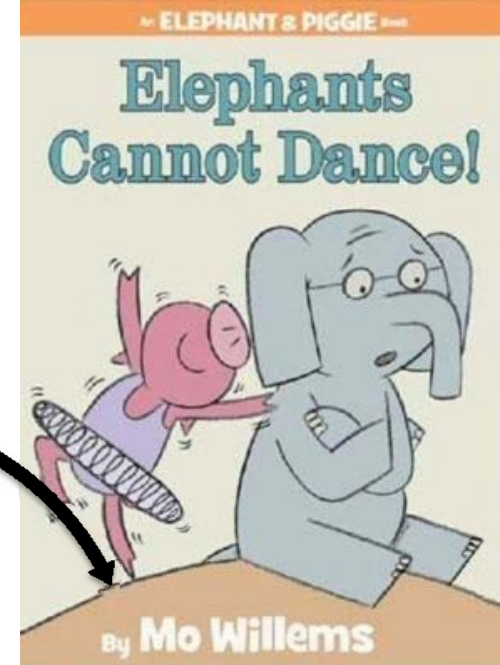
Text to Self

- They might remember adults telling them stories from when the adults were little.
- Stand Tall, Molly Lou Melon by Patty Lovell

- Sometimes small people can do big things.
- Lifeline of Patience – she didn't worry about being small, but was patient as she grew bigger.

Text to World

Elephants Cannot Dance! by Mo Willems



Text to Text

- Students might relate to trying something and it being hard or difficult.
- Students might relate trying to teach something to someone else.

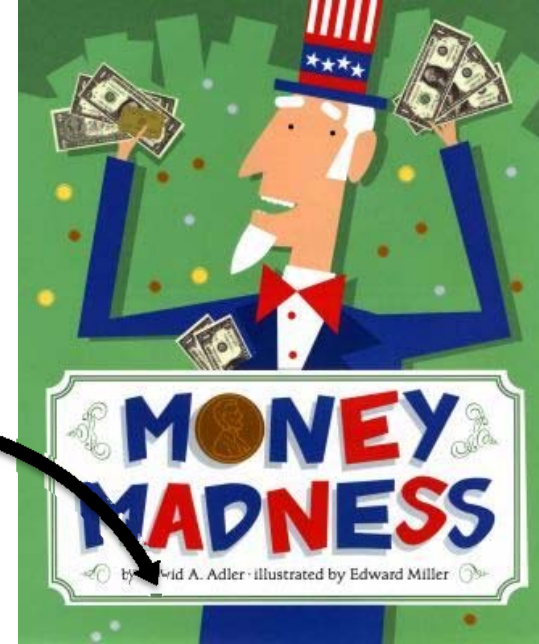
Text to Self

- All the Elephant and Piggie books share how friends help each other.
- There are tons of friendship stories such as the Bear stories by Karma Wilson or A Splendid Friend, Indeed by Suzanne Bloom.

- Lifeline of Perseverance
- Just because things are hard to do, doesn't mean they are impossible.

Text to World

Money Madness by David A. Adler



Text to Text

- Students might connect to the importance of money.
- Students might remember trading food items at lunch.

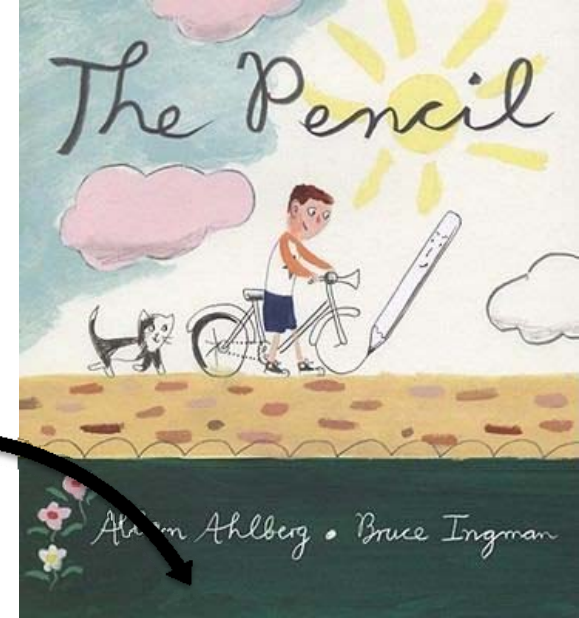
Text to Self

- Andrew Clements' Lunch Money shows students trying to make a little money.
- Mr. Tanen's Ties by Maryann Cocca-Leffler shows how he sold his ties to make money for the school.

- How does money make the world a better place?
- Ho does money make the world not a better place?

Text to World

The Pencil by Allan Ahlberg



Text to Text

- Students might connect to what they've used a pencil to create.
- Students might remember when they've used an eraser to fix a problem that ended up making it worse.

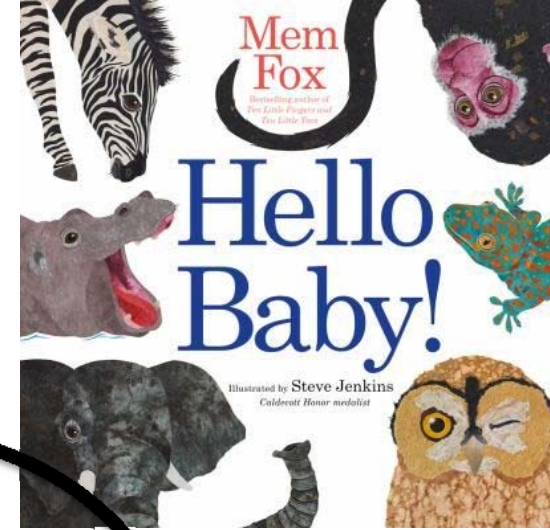
Text to Self

- Ms. McCaw Learns to Draw by Kaethe Zemach
- Badly Drawn Dog by Emma Dodson

- One little action can lead to amazing things.
- Lifeline of Problem Solving.

Text to World

Hello Baby!
by Mem Fox



Text to Text

- Students might connect to a guessing game they had played before.
- Students might connect with an animal in the story that they had researched.

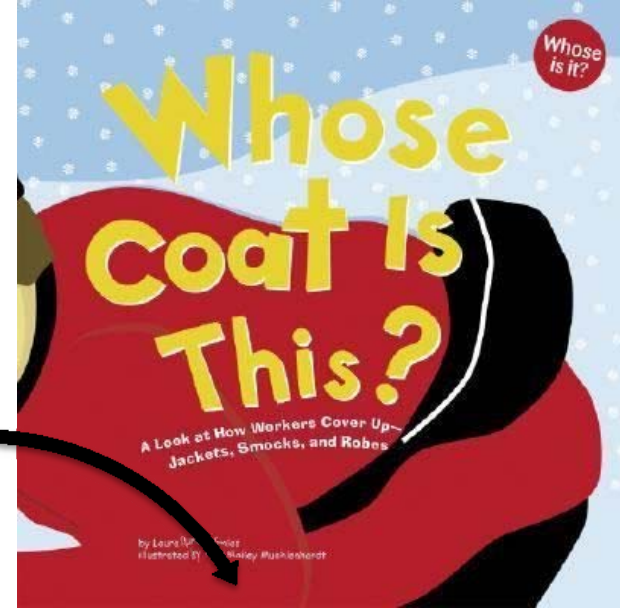
Text to Self

- Students may connect to Jenkins' illustrations from other books.
- Actual Size by Steve Jenkins
- What Do You Do with a Tail Like This? by Steve Jenkins

- All creatures have babies that are important to them.
- The environment is important for all these babies and their parents to thrive.

Text to World

Whose Coat is This? by Laura Purdie Salas



Text to Text

- Students might connect to someone they know who wears a coat like one of them in the book.
- Students might think of other articles of clothing or tools that identify with certain jobs.

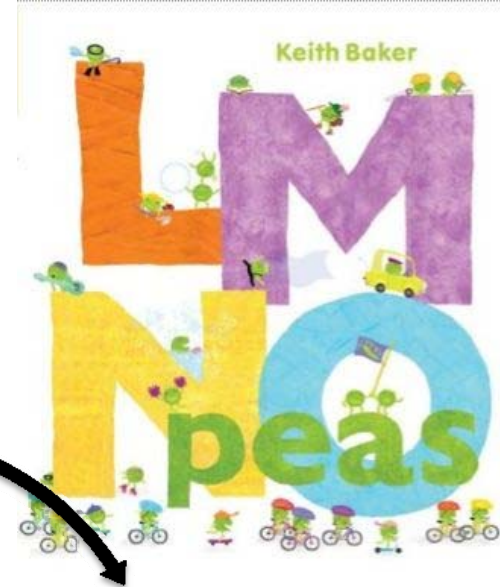
Text to Self

- One of the other books in the Whose Is It? series.
- Books on various careers.

- Why are the coats and uniforms people wear important? What do they tell us about their jobs?
- Do people all over the world with the same job wear similar coats?

Text to World

L M N O Peas
by Keith Baker



Text to Text

- Alphabet books
- Career books

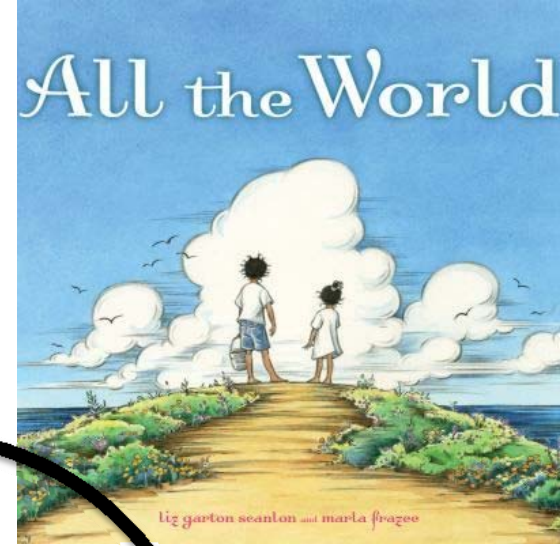
- Every job in the world is important.
- Students can be anything they want to be when they grow up.

Text to World

Text to Self

- Students might connect to jobs they do that start with various letters.
- Students might connect to the job their parents or other adults do that are mentioned in the book.

All the World
by Liz Garton Scanlon



Text to Text

- Students may connect to some of the places and things mentioned in the book.
- Students might connect to the family and friends mentioned in the book.

Text to Self

- One World, One Day by Barbara Kerley.
- Children Just Like Me by Barnabas and Anabel Kindersley.

- There is so much to take in and see in the world if we just slow down to look.
- We're a part of the world and can help make it a better place.

Text to World

You can use this form for students to make their own connections then share them in community circle.

