



Connect Extend Challenge Reading Programme

Connect Extend Challenge is a thinking routine we use here at Birkdale Intermediate School.

It was developed at Harvard University and we use it to develop our students' awareness and appreciation of texts they read e.g. books, poems, articles. If students take greater control of their reading they are more likely to engage in reading and learning.

Connect Extend Challenge helps students unlock and uncover layers of meaning in text. The strategy is based around a set of questions that students ask themselves. This helps them to comprehend the text, then form deeper understandings by making inferences and connections between the text and their own experiences. This makes the reading experience more meaningful and relevant.

The strategy, when used routinely, is also designed to help students to develop their own 'thinking voice' by allowing and encouraging them to express their ideas and understandings in response to text.

Ways in which you could support your child during their reading and use of Connect Extend Challenge:

- Ask them questions about what they are reading using Connect Extend Challenge to help.
- When they are talking about their reading ask, "What made you say that?"

This simple question is very powerful for both parents and teachers to use. "What makes you say that?" in a curious and non-judgmental tone after someone has given a response, we are able to get a window into the thinking behind that person's initial response. The reason behind the response often tells us much more the response itself.

- Share with them your own thoughts, feelings, and understandings about texts they are reading.
- Talk about the books, newspaper and magazine articles you are reading. Discuss the movies you have seen. Connect these with your experiences, and other books you have read or movies you have seen.
- Make a visit to the local library for books.



CONNECT

How are the ideas and information presented **CONNECTED** to what you already knew?

How does this connect with my life?

How well did I connect with the text?

Is there a word, phrase or sentence that I don't understand, that's stopping me connecting with the text?

EXTEND

What new ideas did you get that **EXTENDED** or pushed your thinking in new directions?

Focus on:

Thoughts, Feelings, Messages, Issues, Purpose, Ideas, Visual and Language Features.

CHALLENGE

What is still **CHALLENGING** or confusing for you to get your mind around?

What questions, wonderings or puzzles do I still have about the text?

What new insights and understandings did I gain? I used to think..., Now I think.