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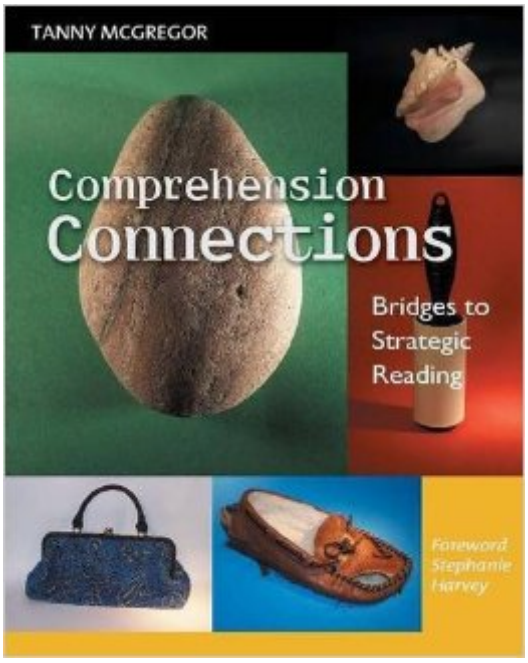
Comprehension Connections: Bridges To Strategic Reading



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Synopsis

Inferring, questioning, determining importance. It’s not easy to explain these abstract reading strategies to elementary readers, yet knowing how they work and how to use them is an important first step to connecting with texts. Fortunately Tanny McGregor has developed visual, tangible, everyday lessons that make abstract thinking concrete and that can help every child in your classroom make more effective use of reading comprehension strategies. Comprehension Connections is a guide to developing children’s ability to fully understand texts by making the comprehension process achievable, accessible, and incremental. McGregor’s approach sequences stages of learning for each strategy that take students from a fun object lesson to a nuanced and lasting understanding. Her lessons build bridges between the concrete and the abstract by incorporating writing, discussion, song, art, and movement into a web of creative connections that reinforce each strategy on a variety of levels. All the while Comprehension Connections offers an inside look at the dynamic of McGregor’s teaching, showing you how her ideas look in action, and including the language she uses and that she encourages her students to use as they build their facility with: schema inferring questioning determining importance visualizing synthesizing. Many students struggle to understand what it is they are supposed to do as they learn to read strategically. Help them make connections to the ideas behind reading and watch as your readers go deeper into texts than ever before.

Book Information

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Age Range: 5 - 11 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 6

Customer Reviews

Since Mosaic of Thought, I've been reading a lot about teaching reading comprehension strategies. But like my special education students, I needed someone to show me how to teach them-concretely. This little gem gives you anchor lessons for each strategy. The anchor lessons use objects, songs, movement to introduce students to reading strategies. I highly recommend this book to my special education commrades trying to help their students improve comprehension.

I love this book! It is so easy to read. As a reading coach, I am writing a grant to get this book for my faculty so that we can do a book study. The book makes comprehension concrete for children. I have used the lessons in the book with both kindergarten students and fifth graders. I would suggest it for anyone looking to make the instruction of reading comprehension more accessible to elementary age children. I would also recommend it for teachers of struggling students in middle and high school. Explicit, concrete instruction is what this text provides.

Excellent concrete examples and charts that children can relate to and use as anchor lessons. I recommend this book to all elementary teachers of comprehension skills.

I loved this book! I have used it in my classroom in my second grade classroom for over a year now. The book is a quick read and easy to use. Tanny has totally changed the way I teach comprehension. I would HIGHLY suggest that every teacher who teaches comprehension strategies to their students read this book.I received a huge compliment with regard to reading from a fellow second grade teacher whose daughter is in my classroom this year because of the book. One afternoon after school she came into my classroom and said "Keep up whatever you are doing because Sally comes home and tells me everything you are doing in class!She couldn't wait to tell me about the latest lesson you taught about garbage and inferring."My students love the activities and the experiences help them relate to the comprehension strategies in a concrete way. This book will change the way you teach, you have to read it!

I didn't quite realize the little nugget I had purchased until I was about 35,ooo feet in the air!I bought this book at the recommendation of a teacher on my grade level near the end of the school year. I skimmed it and decided it could wait until summer vacation. I guess the black and white photos

didn’t entice me enough to read immediately. It was tucked into my carry on bag and I pulled it out after the flight attendants made their way up and down the aisle with drinks and pretzels. Instead of quickly reading for tidbits, it was clear that I needed to take careful notes, ask questions, and create a list of activities to engage my students into thinking about their thinking.The author creates a framework in which teaching strategies isn’t complicated, abstract or boring. Before the students get into the text and begins inferring, visualizing or identifying their schema, Ms. McGregor has given lesson ideas, lesson dialogue and lesson visuals that are fun, mysterious, personal, interactive,and engaging. I also love that her lessons do not need an expensive setup to complete. Any prop or materials she suggests in teaching strategies is something easily obtained for low or no cost.I read half of the book during a California to Texas flight. It was simple to read but full of insight, ideas, and resources that I had not considered using when teaching comprehension strategies. I wish she had mentioned a few more picture books she has used with particular success for each strategy. Now that I have this big picture of comprehension strategies in my head, I imagine new ideas for lessons will come up no matter what book I am reading. It’s just nice to have a cheat sheet to start with.Excited about using this book as a jumping off point this year!

I read this book in one sitting. It’s not long and she doesn’t spend 100 pages trying to explain why you should listen to her advice. She lays out very practical solutions to very difficult concepts. None of her tips require a lot of time or money to implement. It is not a quick fix, you’re going to have to have something in your tool belt to get it, she is not trying to cram years of education classes into one book. It is WELL WORTH the money!

This is an excellent book. Very easy to read with some great ideas for activities that you can immediately implement in your classroom with little preparation.

This book is just..... wow. I feel like it should be way more known in the teacher crowd than it is. Every elementary teacher should have this book. I kept reading chapter after chapter getting more and more excited, thinking-- this is what I’ve been looking for all along! Tanny takes each "big idea" comprehension strategy-- matacognition, schema, etc. and gives you a handful of perfect lessons to teach it. When I say perfect, I mean PERFECT. They are so engaging and cute, yet drive the idea home so no student will ever forget it. The lessons all start with something concrete, like paint color samples, salad bowls, a lint roller. These props are the things that make the lessons stick in kids’ minds, yet they are the things that I am never creative enough to come up with on my own. After the

idea is introduced with this concrete object, students explore it with wordless picture books and then move on to texts. I can't remember the last time I've been so excited about a teaching book. It definitely goes in my top 3 teaching books ever. (The other two are The Daily 5 and On Solid Ground.)

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