

Connections That Matter

Notice how a reader links source details to lived experience.

6.6.A “describe personal connections to a variety of sources, including self-selected texts;”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB In each paragraph, circle one detail from the source and underline the personal memory or thought it causes for the narrator. Number the three connections 1, 2, and 3.

Notes from a Reader

- ① At the library, I chose an article called “Maps That Breathe” because its cover showed blue lines spreading across a city. The article explained that rain flows from roofs, streets, and parks into the same watershed. I thought about the storm last spring, when water rushed along my apartment’s curb and carried leaves toward the drain. Before reading, I saw that drain as a small hole in the street. Now I pictured it as part of a larger path that eventually reaches our river.
- ② Later, I listened to a short podcast about teenagers in Phoenix who painted murals beside dry canals. One speaker said the murals made neighbors notice places they usually passed without looking. That reminded me of my cousin Elena, who draws flowers on the grocery lists she makes for her father. I used to think her drawings slowed everyone down. After the podcast, I wondered whether they helped people notice ordinary tasks. I wrote in my notes, “Art can change what people pay attention to.”
- ③ For my reading log, I picked a memoir excerpt about a boy learning to repair bicycles with his grandfather. I selected it because my neighbor, Mr. Darnell, lets me hold the flashlight while he fixes his old bike. The writer described greasy hands and the click of a chain settling into place. Those details made me remember Mr. Darnell’s patient voice when a bolt would not loosen. My connection did not mean our experiences were identical. It helped me understand why the boy felt proud when he finally solved a problem himself.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Describe the narrator’s personal connection to the article about watersheds. What new understanding does this connection create?

2 What detail from the podcast connects to the narrator’s cousin Elena? How does that connection change the narrator’s thinking?

3 Why did the narrator choose the memoir excerpt, and how does the narrator’s experience help explain the boy’s pride?

4 How does the narrator show that a personal connection does not have to be exactly the same as the source experience?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose a text, article, video, podcast, or other source that you selected yourself. Write 4 to 5 sentences that name the source, describe one detail from it, explain a personal connection, and tell how the connection changes or deepens your understanding.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

In each paragraph, circle one detail from the source and underline the personal memory or thought it causes for the narrator. Number the three connections 1, 2, and 3. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Describe the narrator's personal connection to the article about watersheds. What new understanding does this connection create?	The narrator remembers storm water rushing along the curb toward a drain. This helps the narrator understand that the drain is part of a larger path leading to the river.
2	What detail from the podcast connects to the narrator's cousin Elena? How does that connection change the narrator's thinking?	The podcast says murals make people notice places they usually pass. The narrator begins to think Elena's grocery-list drawings may help people notice ordinary tasks.
3	Why did the narrator choose the memoir excerpt, and how does the narrator's experience help explain the boy's pride?	The narrator chose it because Mr. Darnell lets the narrator help with bike repairs. Remembering Mr. Darnell's patient work helps the narrator understand the boy's pride after solving a problem.
4	How does the narrator show that a personal connection does not have to be exactly the same as the source experience?	The narrator says that helping Mr. Darnell repair a bike is not identical to the boy repairing bikes with his grandfather, but the similar experience still helps the narrator understand the boy.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I chose a photo essay about community gardens because I like growing mint on my balcony. A photograph showed volunteers saving rainwater in barrels. It reminded me how my grandmother uses a bowl of leftover water for her plants. That connection helped me understand that small water-saving choices can matter in a neighborhood.

Accept accurate descriptions of the narrator's connections and their effects, using details from the passage. For Part 3, accept varied self-selected sources when the response includes all required parts and clearly explains a meaningful connection.