

	<i>Reading Tool</i>	Strategies of Independent Strategic Readers Supported by this Reading Tool:
RANDOM CONNECTIONS		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. X Have strategies to use when encountering new words 2. X Connect new knowledge to make meaning 3. Think ahead to what might be coming. 4. Continually evaluate own understanding. 5. Create images of what is being read. 6. Periodically summarize what is read. 7. Use textual cues, visuals, and organization. 8. Have a plan for how to approach the task.

How to Use:

- Either select vocabulary words important to the reading or have students scan the text for words they do not know.
- Have students enter the selected vocabulary words in the spaces of the left-hand column.
- Instruct students to randomly select words from the dictionary and write these words and a brief definition in the space of the second column.
- Give students a chance to review or look up the definitions of the vocabulary words.
- When students feel comfortable with their understanding of both the vocabulary and dictionary words, ask them to write a sentence that incorporates both words in a logical way
- Ask students to share their sentences either in small groups or as a class.

Tips/Variations

- Instead of creating sentences ask students to make notes about how the two words are alike.
- Select the dictionary words for use by the entire class instead of having students select them individually.
- Let students work in pairs to develop the sentences.
- Consider reviewing the meaning of the vocabulary words before having students complete the activity.
- Let students make notes about the meaning of each vocabulary word as they complete the reading assignment.
- Instead of selecting random words from the dictionary, use vocabulary words from a previous unit or from another content area.

RANDOM CONNECTIONS

Directions: list the vocabulary words from the reading in the spaces in the first column. Using a dictionary, randomly select words and enter those in the rows of the second column. Write a brief definition of the random dictionary word in the same space. In the third column, write a sentence that uses both the vocabulary word and the dictionary word or a sentence that shows how the two words are alike. The sentence should help the reader understand what both words mean.

Vocabulary word	Dictionary Word and Definition	Sentence
Black hole (end-product of the collapse of a massive star)	Grouchy (com-planning; ill tempered)	The collapse of a massive star might make an astronomer grouchy if the resulting black hole couldn't be studied.
Galaxy (gas and millions of stars held together by gravity)	Mast (structure that holds the sails of a ship)	The mast of a ship holds the sails, which catch the wind and hold it like gravity holds together the gas and stars in a galaxy.
Orbit (path traveled by a body in space)	Overestimate (estimate that is too high)	If you carefully measure the orbit of an object around the earth, you will not overestimate is distance.
Planet (celestial body in orbit around a star)	Ricochet (rebound of an object after it hits something else)	Planets do not ricochet against one another because gravity keeps them in orbit around a star.
Satellite (also moon-a body in orbit around a planet)	Staphylococcus (bacteria that occurs in pairs of clusters)	Staphylococcus bacteria occur in clusters like grapes, whereas satellites move in an orderly fashion in orbits around a planet.
Star (celestial body of intensely hot gases held together by gravity)	Transfer (move or pass form one person or place to another)	The heat form a star's gases are transferred to plants that revolve around it.

