

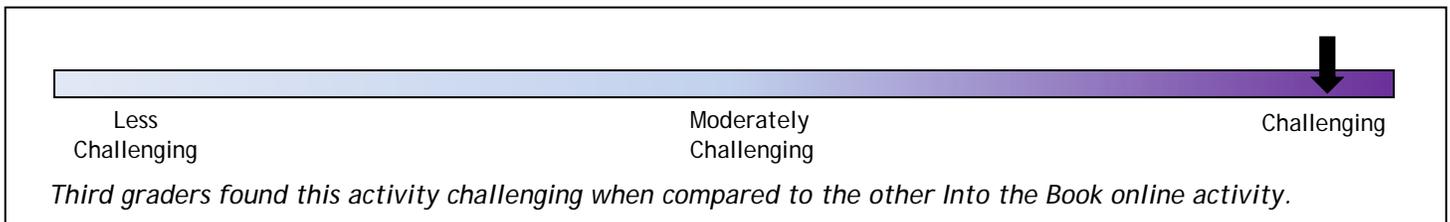
Teacher Guide to Online Activity: Making Connections - Slingshot to Understanding

Summary:

The goal of this activity is for students to choose the strong connection between two texts. This allows them to leap between buildings and clear the smog from a city. To do this, students will:

- critically analyze three **text-to-text connections**, identifying the **strong, weak, and distracting connections**;
- justify their reasoning for choosing a particular connection.

To view the standards this activity addresses, visit: <http://reading.ecb.org/teacher/standards.html>



Teaching Tips:

If students are using iPads, remind them they can use *Siri* (an iPad feature that will type student input into the text fields).

During this activity, students sometimes find it challenging to:

- Decide which is the strong, weak, and distracting connection.
 - Tell students to click **Learn about Connections** during the activity to review the characteristics of each type of connection.

Before you start:

- Review the difference between strong, weak, and distracting connections.
- Tell students that they will be making text-to-text connections during the activity, using the base text called "Pollution is Personal." It is important for them to read this text carefully.
- Inform students they need to read all three connections, then drag the strongest connection to the slingshot in the middle of the screen.
- Remind students to explain their reasoning for each choice, because they will print or email you their responses after the activity.

After you finish:

- Have students print or email you their work.
- Conference with students about their responses. Discuss the purpose of strong connections and the difference between strong, weak, and distracting connections.
- Give students two short texts (i.e. advertisements, short stories, poems, etc.), and have them work with a partner to make strong text-to-text connections. Be sure to have the students explain why their connections are strong.
- Continue to encourage students to make meaningful connections when they read.

Screen-by-screen Preview:

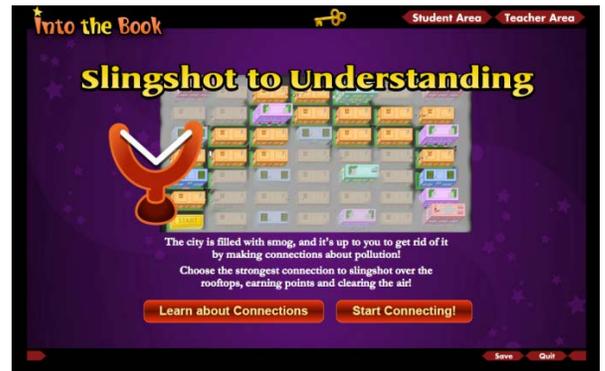
Choose Slingshot to Understanding to begin.



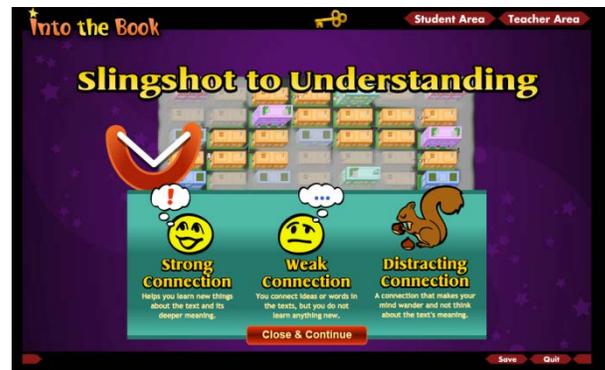
Next, watch a short video tutorial about how to do the activity.

Then click:

- Learn about Connections to see a graphic about the differences between strong, weak, and distracting connections
- Start Connecting to begin the activity
- Replay to play the tutorial again
- Watch Video to watch a clip from *Into the Book* that reviews making connections



If needed, the Learn about Connections button is available to use throughout the activity.



Read the anchor text "Pollution is Personal" or press Play to listen to the article. This text will be used throughout the entire activity.

Next, click Continue.

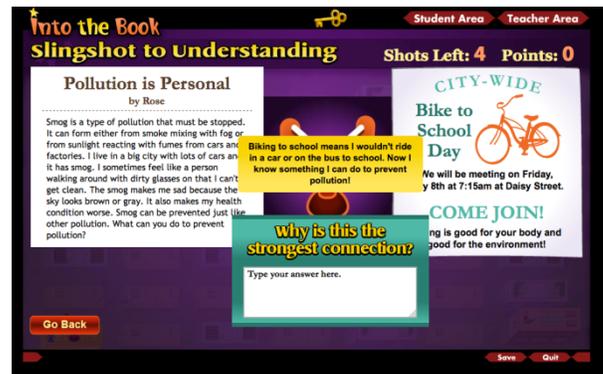
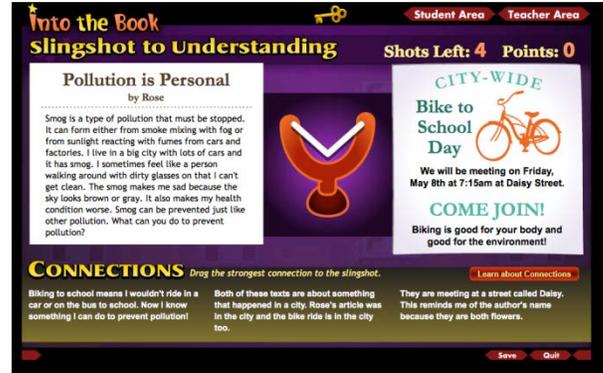


A secondary text is now given, as well as three connections between the anchor and secondary text.

Decide which of the three connections is the strongest between the two provided texts.

Drag the strongest connection to the slingshot between the two texts. Type your reasoning in the text box.

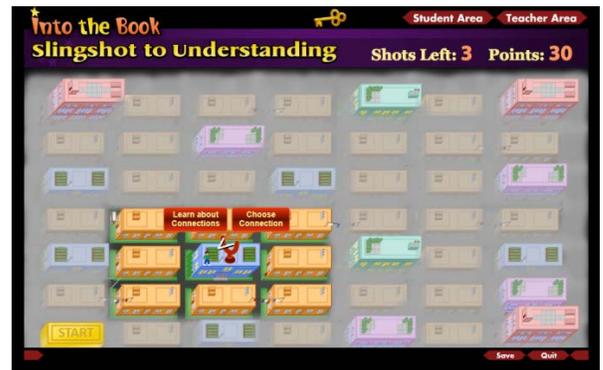
If needed, click Learn about Connections for help explaining your reasoning.



Use the slingshot to leap to buildings. The distance leapt is assessed as follows:

- Strong connection: forward 2 buildings
- Weak connection: forward 1 building
- Distracting connection: try again

Try to leap to the tallest buildings, which are worth more points. If 100 points are earned, the smog will clear. Students have four opportunities to leap. For the fifth turn, learners write their own connection, but they will not have an opportunity to jump in the city.



After the activity, click:

- Print your work
- Email your work
- Listen to Making Connections Song
- Print Your Bookmark
- Play Again
- Go to the Mountain of Understanding, the other making connections activity
- Go Back To Student Main Menu

