How to Write a Paragraph about a Text-to-Self Connection

**STEP ONE** (Topic Sentence)

Begin with a *topic sentence* which:

1. identifies the title, author and genre (TAG) of the text you are connecting to

   **AND**

2. identifies the kind of connection you made.

Examples:

- When I read the short story, “The Nest” by Robert Zacks, I made several text-to-self connections.

  **OR**

- I made several text-to-self connections when I read the short story, “The Nest” by Robert Zacks.

  **OR**

- I really connected with the main character Jimmy when I read the short story, “The Nest” by Robert Zacks.

**STEP TWO** (Main body)

Define a text-to-self connection.

Example:

- A text-to-self connection is when something in a text reminds you of something you’ve experienced.

**STEP THREE** (Main body)

Describe what it was about the text you connected to.

Examples:

- When Mrs. Johnson said, “We won’t discuss it further.” during her argument with Jimmy I could relate to how that made Jimmy feel.

  **OR**

- When I read that Jimmy went on the hike without his mother’s permission I thought of a similar experience I had.

  **OR**

- When Jimmy recalled the incident where he almost drowned I thought of a similar experience I had.
STEP FOUR (Main body)

Describe the connection you made. If it's somewhat different from the text, note how it's different but explain how it's the same.

Examples:

• When I argue with my father he always cuts me off when he doesn’t want to discuss it any more. It makes me so angry when my dad won’t listen. I get so upset sometimes I have to walk away from him.

OR

• Last summer I wanted to go to the mall with my friends but Mom said I couldn’t. I told her I was just going over to a friend’s house but I went to the mall anyway. The whole time I was at the mall I thought someone was going to see me and text Mom. I felt so guilty that when I got home I told her the truth. Boy, did I get in trouble! My mother wasn’t as forgiving as Jimmy’s, I got grounded!

OR

• Last year when we were at the lake I went swimming and almost drowned. Unlike Jimmy my father wasn’t swimming with me! However, my buddy John saw my situation and threw a life buoy to me. Like Jimmy, I know what it feels like to almost drown.

STEP FIVE (Conclusion)

Explain how making this connection helped you understand the text better.

Examples:

• So, I know just what Jimmy’s going through. I know the frustration he felt!

OR

• When I read that Jimmy saw the stern face of his mother in the cloud while he was on the hike, I understood how guilty he felt because I felt the same way at the mall.

OR

• I could recall what it felt like when I read the description of the aching arms and legs and the panic of not being able to breathe. I could see why Jimmy was thinking maybe he should listen to his mother.
EXAMPLE 1

When I read the short story, “The Nest” by Robert Zacks, I made several text-to-self connections. A text-to-self connection is when something in a text reminds you of something you’ve experienced. When Mrs. Johnson said, “We won’t discuss it further.” during her argument with Jimmy I could relate to how that made Jimmy feel. When I argue with my father he always cuts me off when he doesn’t want to discuss it any more. It makes me so angry when my dad won’t listen. I get so upset sometimes I have to walk away from him. So, I know just what Jimmy’s going through. I know the frustration he felt!

EXAMPLE 2

I made several text-to-self connections when I read the short story, “The Nest” by Robert Zacks. A text-to-self connection is when something in a text reminds you of something you’ve experienced. When I read that Jimmy went on the hike without his mother’s permission I thought of a similar experience I had. Last summer I wanted to go to the mall with my friends but Mom said I couldn’t. I told her I was just going over to a friend’s house but I went to the mall anyway. The whole time I was at the mall I thought someone was going to see me and text Mom. I felt so guilty that when I got home I told her the truth. Boy, did I get in trouble! My mother wasn’t as forgiving as Jimmy’s, I got grounded! When I read that Jimmy saw the stern face of his mother in the cloud while he was on the hike, I understood how guilty he felt because I felt the same way at the mall.

EXAMPLE 3

I really connected with the main character Jimmy when I read the short story, “The Nest” by Robert Zacks. A text-to-self connection is when something in a text reminds you of something you’ve experienced. When Jimmy recalled the incident where he almost drowned I thought of a similar experience I had. Last year when we were at the lake I went swimming and almost drowned. Unlike Jimmy my father wasn’t swimming with me! However, my buddy John saw my situation and threw a life buoy to me. Like Jimmy, I know what it feels like to almost drown. I could recall what it felt like when I read the description of the aching arms and legs and the panic of not being able to breathe. I could see why Jimmy was thinking maybe he should listen to his mother.
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**STEP FIVE**  (Conclusion)

Explain how making this connection helped you understand the text better.