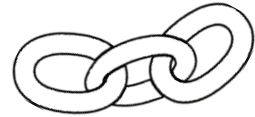


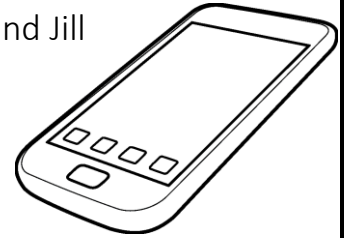
Making Connections



Read the passage of text. Think about any connections you can make to yourself, to other books you've read, or things that have happened in the world.

Hanging On

Leaving Egret Bay was difficult. It had been home for thirteen years, and Jill and I had been best friends for most of those. In the first couple of months after the move, I would rush home from school to catch up with Jill. Sometimes it was a call, other times it was text messages, or we'd play video games online together.



After a few months, things started to change. I started feeling that it was always me who was messaging her first. When my birthday came and went without so much as a message from her, I was hurt. She messaged me a couple of times afterwards to apologise, but I was done. I said some hurtful things, and then more or less blocked her.

It was a tough time for me to say the least. It's strange, but that fight was exactly what I needed. I didn't need to rush home anymore. It was almost like I lowered a barrier that I'd put up. I started giving myself the chance to get to know kids at my new school. And you know what? Most of them were actually pretty cool.

I can also see now that it wasn't fair on Jill. I talked to Jill and explained to her how I'd been feeling. I was relieved when she told me she understood everything. I've realised that my new life is here and that we're still friends, even if we're not best friends- whatever that means!

What connections were you able to make with this text?
Think about the characters, the events, and the setting.

Explain how making connections might support a reader's understanding of this text.
