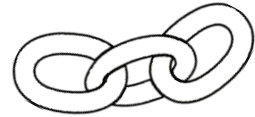


Making Connections



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.

Splash Land

Jake stood in line with his friends. Ben and Darren were laughing and joking around with one another. Jake forced a smile every now and then, but he found it hard to concentrate on anything other than the enormous twisting green tube that seemed to swallow people and then spit them out into a little pool at the other end of the water park. The closer he and his friends got to the front of the line, the more nervous he became. He couldn't back out now. He could just imagine the staring and the giggling he would have to endure as he walked back down the steps past all those people.



"Come on, Jake. You can do it," he said to himself. He knew there was only one way out of this, and it wasn't down the stairs. Jake peered down into the tube. He saw the rushing water carry away another victim as their screams got fainter and fainter. This was torture!

"Okay boys, who's first?" called the young woman sitting on the chair. She swung a whistle around her finger as she looked at Jake and his friends.

Jake hesitated a moment before raising his hand. He steadied his voice as much as he could. "See you at the bottom," Jake managed with half a smile. He walked over to the mouth of the tube, perched himself on the edge. Jake felt the cold water pounding against his back. He closed his eyes, took a deep breath, and leaned back.

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.
