

Skill-Building Book Tips

7 Essential Life Skills

Turn the reading of *When You Reach Me* into an adventure that highlights Making Connections, a Life Skill that promotes Executive Functions. This Life Skill is at the heart of learning—**figuring out what's the same and what's different, and sorting these things into categories. Making unusual connections is at the core of creativity.** In a world where people can Google for information, it's the people who can see connections who are able to go beyond knowing information to **using this information well.**

Tip

Miranda and Marcus have a conversation about time travel and common sense on pages 49-51. Talk with your child about these statements, *"Einstein says common sense is just habit of thought. It's how we're used to thinking about things, but a lot of the time it just gets in the way."* Ask your child if he can think of a time that he saw a different way or if this book helped him see things differently as the story unfolded.

Skill

When you talk about different views and new ideas, you're helping your child make connections between new information and old information; this promotes learning. When your child can make unusual connections, this promotes creativity.

Tip

There are many instances throughout the book where Miranda makes new connections between what she thought and what actually happened, as well as what she thought was or was not possible. The laughing man actually was a time traveler to save her friend Sal from getting killed by the car; the notes were actually from the laughing man, not a bad guy; and all of the clues in the notes lead up to the ending.

Talk with your child about who he or she thought was writing the notes and what the notes meant. Did he or she suspect the laughing man?

Skill

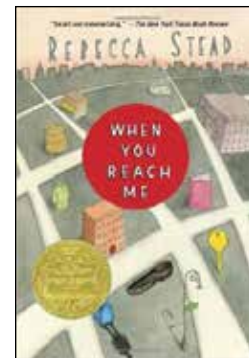
When you have conversations with your child about initial thoughts and new thoughts based on new information, you're helping him be aware of the learning process and how connections are made. When we are aware of how we are thinking, we can learn additional ways to process information.

Note: Since *A Wrinkle in Time* by Madeleine D'Engle is so important in *When You Reach Me*, your child might enjoy reading it and talking with you about the connections between the two books.

When You reach Me

By Rebecca Stead

The prize-winning book, *When You Reach Me* is a suspenseful and clever story about a girl trying to prevent what appears to be a tragic death.



These tips sheets were developed by *Mind in the Making*, in collaboration with First Book. Find more books and materials on the First Book Marketplace, a resource available exclusively to educators and programs serving children in need. **Visit: www.fbmarketplace.org.**