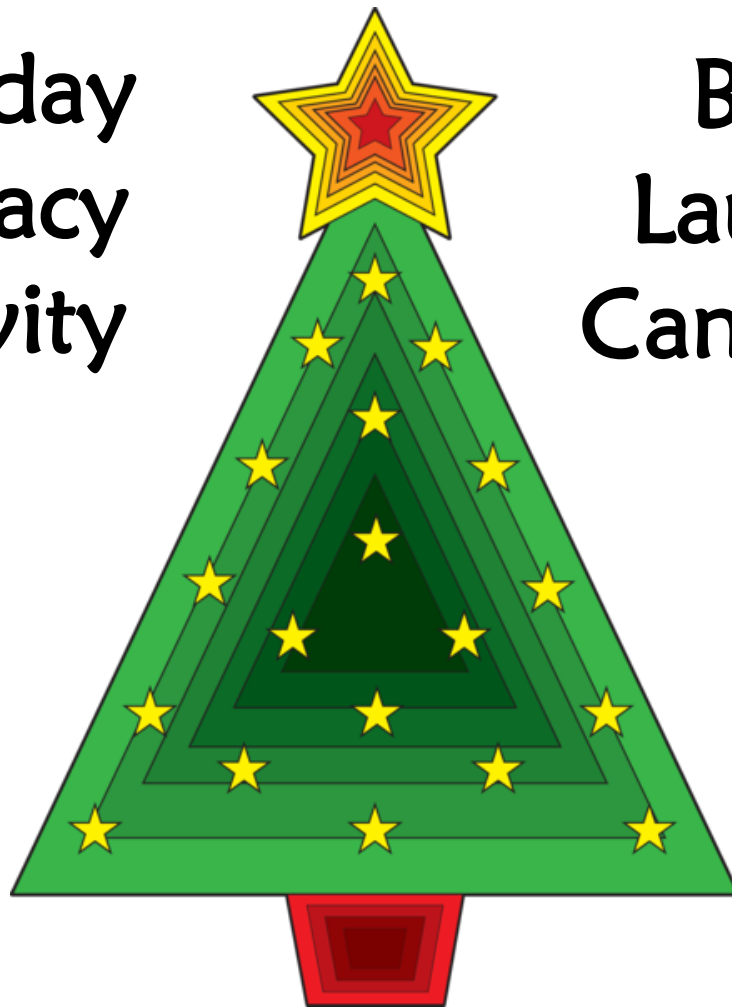


# Christmas Paper Chain Connections

Holiday  
Literacy  
Activity

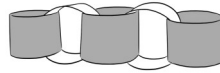
By  
Laura  
Candler





# Christmas Paper Chain Connections

Literacy Activity from Laura Candler



Paper Chain Connections			
_____ Title	_____ Author	_____ Date	_____ Page Number
_____ Connection Type	_____ Text	_____ World	_____ Page Number
_____ Connection Type	_____ Text	_____ World	_____ Page Number
_____ Connection Type	_____ Text	_____ World	_____ Page Number
_____ Connection Type	_____ Text	_____ World	_____ Page Number
_____ Connection Type	_____ Text	_____ World	_____ Page Number

## Overview

Students will record their reading connections on slips of paper. Then they will connect those slips of paper to form short paper chains which can be used as Christmas tree ornaments or joined to form longer chains. This activity works well with the Holiday Reading Marathon described on page 5.

## Teaching Suggestions

1. **Model Skill** - Teach a lesson on how to make connections while reading, and review the three types of connections (text to self, text to text, and text to world.) Read aloud a holiday-themed story and ask students to make connections while listening. As students share their connections, classify them according to the three types.
2. **Independent Practice** - Give each student one copy of the Paper Chain Connections printable on page 3 and have them cut apart the slips of paper. Allow at least 30 minutes of independent reading time and ask students to record each connection they make on a slip of paper. Encourage them to include at least one of each type (self, text, and world.)
3. **Sharing Session** - Before students glue their connections together, give them time to share about one or two connections with a partner or in a guided reading group.
4. **Creating Chains** - Show students how to create loops from their connections and link them together to form chains. They can tie a ribbon to one end to hang the chain on a Christmas tree or simply drape the chain over a branch.

## Variations and Extensions

- Cut extra slips and encourage students to add as many connections as they would like. They could also alternate the white connection strips with red and green strips.
- Allow students to decorate their connection slips after writing and before connecting.
- Create one long class chain by having students each create three connection slips while you are reading aloud a seasonal story. Allow time for sharing before connecting the strips.
- Invite an older or younger class to work with your students as a holiday activity.
- Use the Paper Chain Reading Responses printable on page 3 to create your own activity. you may want students to sequence events in the story, describe character traits, or make chains of inferences. You can even ask your students for ideas!

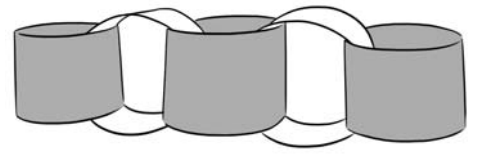


**Happy Holidays!**



For more holiday activities, take a look at Laura's **December Activities Pack** available at [www.teacherspayteachers.com](http://www.teacherspayteachers.com). Be sure to visit Teaching Resources at [www.lauracandler.com](http://www.lauracandler.com) for more lesson ideas and activities.

# Paper Chain Connections



Cut the strips apart and fill out the top strip with the title, author, and your name. As you are reading and make a connection, decide whether your connection is to something you have experienced, to another book or author, or to something happening in the world. Briefly explain the connection on the paper strip, circle the type, and include the page number. When you have completed all the strips, make a loop out of each strip and connect them all to form a paper chain like the one shown.

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Author \_\_\_\_\_ Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

Connection Type: Self Text World Page Number \_\_\_\_\_

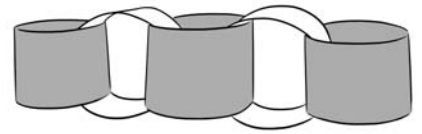
Connection Type: Self Text World Page Number \_\_\_\_\_

Connection Type: Self Text World Page Number \_\_\_\_\_

Connection Type: Self Text World Page Number \_\_\_\_\_

Connection Type: Self Text World Page Number \_\_\_\_\_

# Paper Chain Reading Responses



Cut the strips apart and fill out the top strip with the title, author, and your name. Write one reading response on each slip, but don't write past the dotted lines. When you have completed all the strips, make a loop out of each strip and use a stapler or glue to connect them all to form a paper chain like the one shown.

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Author \_\_\_\_\_ Your Name \_\_\_\_\_



# Holiday Reading Marathon

Reading marathons are fun ways to motivate kids to read and to give them extended periods of time to experience the joy of a great book. Have students wear something comfortable and bring a special stuffed animal, blanket, or pillow for reading. It's also best to establish guidelines before you begin. Take a restroom break right before you start and make sure everyone has plenty of great reading material on hand. Reading marathons are particularly effective the day before a holiday break because students are generally calm and focused during these events.

Divide your reading marathon into “laps” and “checkpoints.” A lap is the actual reading time, and the checkpoint is a quick reading-related activity. To begin, let everyone spread out on the floor and find a spot to read, then set a timer for about 15 to 20 minutes for the first lap. When the timer goes off, involve students in a 5-minute reading-related activity such as chatting with a book buddy or completing part of a graphic organizer (see holiday suggestion below). Then have students return to the same reading spot for the next lap. The number of laps you read is determined by the total time you have set aside for the reading marathon.

## **Suggested Guidelines**

- Choose a reading location at least 3 feet from anyone else in the room. However, you must be actively reading, not sleeping, during the marathon. If you choose a spot on the floor and you aren't reading, you'll need to return to your desk.
- Stay in your spot during each lap of the reading marathon. You must have enough reading material for the full 15 to 20 minutes.
- Reading quietly and independently without distracting others.
- Keep the same reading location for each lap of the Reading Marathon.

## **Suggested Holiday Checkpoint Activity**

Use the Paper Chain Connections printable in Laura Candler's Literacy File Cabinet and have students record at least 5 connections as they read. Allow time at the end for them to create a paper chain from their connections.







# Laura Candler's Teaching Resources

If you enjoyed this teaching resources pack, you might also enjoy some of my popular ebooks and lessons. You can purchase them from my store on [TeachersPayTeachers.com](http://TeachersPayTeachers.com) by clicking the links below or by visiting my Teaching Resources website: [www.lauracandler.com](http://www.lauracandler.com).



Laura Candler

Teaching Multiple Intelligence Theory

Bingo Showdown:

Confusing Words Review

Character Bio Reports

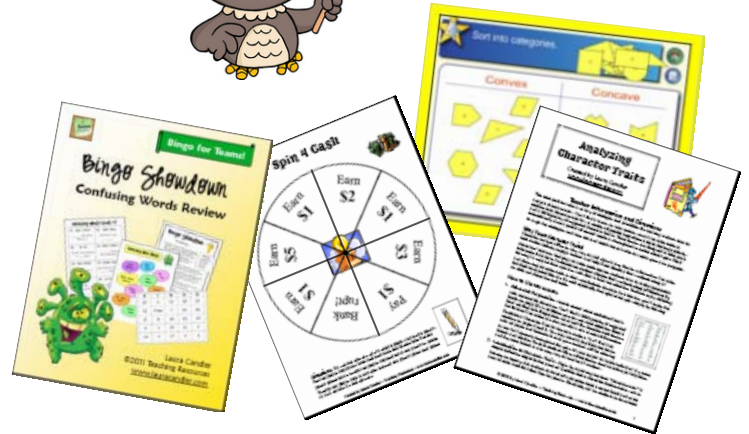
Analyzing Character Traits

Powerful Poetry Combo

Plural Noun Showdown

Sentence Go Round

Writing Powerful Poetry



Geometry: Exploring the Basics

Math Stations for Middle Grades (3-8)

Mastering Math Facts

Polygon Explorations

Polygon Explorations (Smartboard)

Place Value Spinner Games

Fraction Spinner Games

Simplify and Snap Fraction Game

Order of Operations Bingo

## Seasonal Teaching Packs

October

November

December

January

February (Free!)

March

April



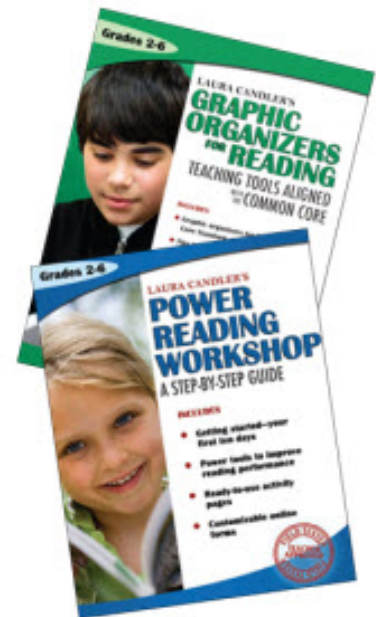
# Teaching Resources Website

[www.lauracandler.com](http://www.lauracandler.com)



## Ready-to-Use Resources for Teachers!

- Free printables and activity sheets
- Lesson plans and teaching strategies
- Cooperative learning methods
- Classroom management and motivation
- Literacy & Reading Workshop strategies
- Mathematics instructional resources
- Weekly Newsletters



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- Popular titles include:
  - **Mastering Math Facts**
  - **Daily Math Puzzler Series**
  - **Math Stations for Middle Grades**
  - **Laura Candler's Power Reading Workshop**
  - **Laura Candler's Graphic Organizers for Reading**



Created by  
Laura Candler  
Milken Educator