Welcome! It is an exciting day! Today we start blogging! Check out exactly what a blog is:

[youtube=http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NN2I1pWXjXI]

Video from: commoncraft.com

**How to get people to read your blog:**

* + Make it interesting! Write about topics that other people will want to read, and that makes them think about even after they have finished reading your blog.
  + comment on other people's blogs intelligently, and they may want to read your blog!
  + Add pictures or color to draw people in.
  + Give credit when you quote something from a book, or that someone said, or when you use a picture from the Internet.

**How you will get graded on your blog:**

Each time we blog there will be a specific rubric on where you will receive points. In order to receive the highest points, keep the rubric below in mind:

Blog Rubric

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Score** | **Basis for Scoring** |
| **6** | * You directly addressed the prompt * You share your thoughts, ideas, or opinions * You use evidence from the text to support your answer * You engage the reader with a colorful blog, a positive tone, and a picture that relates to the post * The opening grabs the reader's attention while introducing the point of the post * Your spelling, punctuation, and capitalization are correct. You don’t use slang |
| **4** | * You addressed ost of the specific prompt * You share some of your thoughts, ideas, or opinions * You don’t use evidence from the text to support your answer. * You engage the reader somewhat with a colorful blog, a positive tone, and a picture that relates to the post * Your opening isn’t attention grabbing * Your spelling, punctuation, and capitalization is mostly correct, you have a few errors. Some slang is used |
| **3** | * You have a few response ideas directed to the prompt, but are missing most. * You share some of your thoughts, ideas, or opinions * You don’t use evidence from the text to support your answer * You don’t engage the reader with a colorful blog, a positive tone, and a picture that relates to the post * Your opening isn’t attention grabbing * Your spelling, punctuation, and capitalization have many errors. Some slang is used |

I want you to blog about the book you are reading. Tell us the title and author and give us a brief overview of the book (don’t give away too much in case others want to read it!)

Good readers constantly make connections. As they read each paragraph, each page, each chapter, they relate it to their life.

Making connections to things the reader already knows helps understand what they are reading and relate to the characters and events more deeply. The purpose of connecting with the text is to help use what the reader already knows to understand new information.

Here are the different types of connections:

**Text-to-self:**

This is similar to my life . . .

This is different from my life . . .

Something like this happened to me when . . .

This reminds me of . . .

This relates to me . . .

When I read this I felt . . .

**Text-to-text:**

This reminds me of another book I’ve read . . .

This is similar to another thing I read . . .

This different from another book I read . . .

This character is similar/different to another character . . .

This setting is similar/different to an other setting . . .

This problem is similar/different to the problem in . . .

**Text-to-world:**

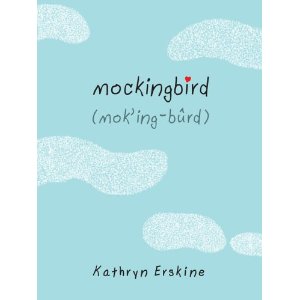
This reminds me of the real world . . .

This book is similar to things that happen in the real world . . .

This book is different from things that happen in the real world . . .

As you read today, what connections did you have? You need to make at least four connections, adn have one quote from the book. If you are struggling,use the prompts above to help you get started. Read my example below for help. Remember to check your rubric so that you can earn the most points possible. Use evidence from your story to support your answer.

Mrs. Hagedorn’s Example:

**[](http://mrshagedornsclass.files.wordpress.com/2010/09/mockingbird.jpg)**

**Mockingbird by Kathryn Erskine**

Devon was the one person who truly understood Caitlin and was able to help her understand the world she lives in. Caitlin’s best friend and brother, Devon, is killed in a school shooting, and Caitlin struggles to help her dad overcome his grief and to learn to live in a world without her big brother Devon to look out for her. Her dad does not know how to relate to his daughter the way Devon did, so the daily struggles at home make Devon’s loss even harder to overcome.

Caitlin is ten years old and has Asperger’s syndrome, this is a disorder that is characterized by significant difficulties in social interactions, and many times people who have Asperger’s have repetitive patterns and strong interests or talents in one area. In Caitlin’s case she is an amazing and talented artist.

Caitlyn hates recess, with all its noise and chaos, and her kind, patient counselor, Mrs. Brook, helps her to understand the reasons behind her discomfort, while offering advice about how to cope with her Asperger™s Syndrome, make friends, and deal with her grief over her older brother’s death in a recent school shooting. An example of how I make a connection to Caitlyn is that I have had a few students in the past that have Asperger’s syndrome. Reading this book showed me a first hand account of the daily struggles that a person with this disorder goes through. While Caitlyn is happy to be by herself and work alone in school, the teachers force her to work in groups. This makes me question why does it matter if she works in groups or not? As long as she is learning the material, then she should be OK, right? Is it important for everyone to be social and to learn to relate to others? Caitlin’s talent is art, so she may be a talented professional artist someday who doesn’t need to work with other people.

I feel hurt for Caitlin as she struggles to go through school and try to understand her teachers and peers. An example of how Caitlin has trouble understanding her world is in this passage, ” when the teacher says she wants you to do something that means you should do it. It’s the same as saying you have to do it. Well why didn’t she say that? ” pg. 41. I think this is a great books for people of all ages to read because it will help people see that people with Aspergers just function in a different way than many other people.