

# Making Connections

Name: Toni Cade Bambara

Title: Raymond's Run

What I read Page #	Connections This reminds me ... I remember ...	My connection helps me understand the text because ...
38	<i>"There is no track meet that I don't win the first place medal"</i> - This reminds me of the type of competitiveness that successful athletes often display, and which helps them achieve their goals.	This helps me to understand the text because I see why Squeaky has this type of attitude - she is a competitor who strives to win and who believes she will win. I can compare her to famous professional athletes who have reputations as fierce competitors who have unwavering belief in their abilities.
41	<i>"I don't think you're going to win this time," says Rosie, trying to signify with her hands on her hips all salty, completely forgetting that I have whupped her behind many times for less..."</i> - Despite Rosie's words, Squeaky is not discouraged at all, and instead shows an eagerness to fight. The negative words of others don't seem to affect her.	"This connection helps me to understand the text because I am aware of how harsh words or negative statements can often have a detrimental impact on people. Athletes or other competitors are, at times, discombobulated due to what people say.
42	<i>"The biggest thing on the program is the May Pole dancing, which I can do without, thank you, even if my mother thinks it's a shame I don't take part and act like a girl for a change."</i> - This reminds of times when I have felt sure of something, even when others around me, have tried to persuade me otherwise.	This connection helps me to understand the text because I have been in positions like Squeaky's, and understand the frustration of not having people understand or agree with the choices I make. However, I also know how important it is to stand up for your beliefs, and achieve success despite the negativity of others.
42	<i>"I do not dance on my toes. I run. That is what I am all about."</i> - This reminds me of a famous phrase: "Know thyself." With this understanding of who she is, and what is important to her, Squeaky is able to achieve focus and find success.	My connection helps me understand the text because I know how important it is for a person to truly know themselves. With this kind of self-knowledge comes confidence, and a kind of peace as well, which lends itself quite well to achieving focus. With this in place, Squeaky can achieve a great deal, no matter what it is she chooses to pursue.
46	<i>"And I smile. Cause she's good, no doubt about it... And she nods to congratulate me and then she smiles... And I smile... We stand there with this big smile of respect between us."</i> - This reminds me of instances where, after a competition, two athletes share a mutual respect for one another, recognizing the talents of the other person.	My connection helps me understand the text because I am able to grasp how the two competitors must have felt after the race was over. They had both clearly worked hard, and, despite winning or losing, they can each appreciate the talents of their opponent.