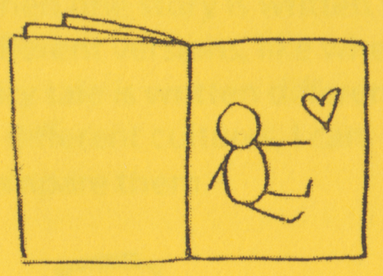
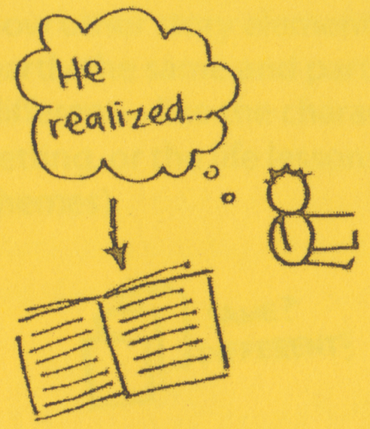
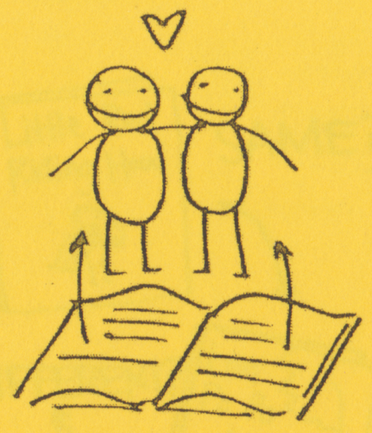
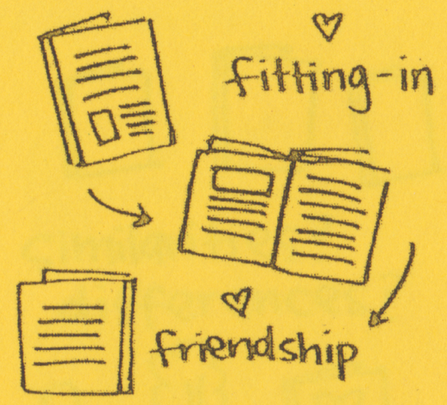
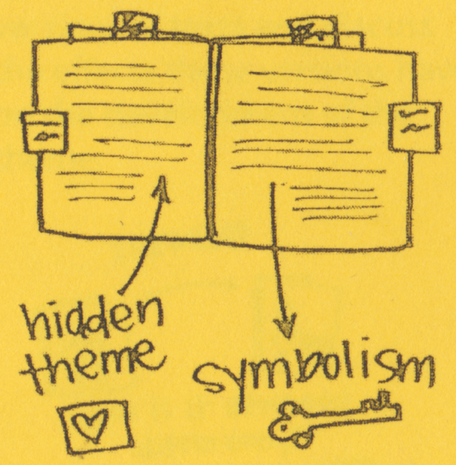
Narrative Reading Learning Progression

	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6
			INTERPRETIVE READING		
Determining Themes/ Cohesion	At the end of a story, I can name the lesson the character learned. I might say this in a word or a phrase. 	At the end of a story, I can say a few sentences about the big life lesson (the theme) that a character has learned. 	I read, asking, "What's this story really about?" and I come up with tentative ideas that I test as I read on. I have an internalized checklist of what makes a good interpretation—that the theme applies to most of the story, that it suggests a life lesson. I know that often the theme becomes most clear at the end, but then I can look back and see the theme trace through other parts, such as times when a character makes a decision or realizes something big. 	I read, asking, "What seem to be the big themes of this story?" I can figure out a couple of themes that are especially significant, noting which are best supported. To think about these, I tie together what several significant parts of the story seem to mean. I know themes are shown not only by the content of the text, but also in the way it is written. 	As I read, I gather up parts of the story that support particular themes. I also actively look for themes that seem more hidden. As new parts of the story suggest new meanings, my understanding of a story's theme becomes more nuanced. When I am considering which themes are most important in a story, I weigh which are most strongly supported across the story. I note literary devices that support the theme, such as symbolism. 
Supporting Thinking with Text Evidence	I can point to and read a part of the story to support my ideas. This is usually the ending.	I can talk and write about parts of the story that support my thinking.	After deciding on a theme that is important to a story, I can look back on the story, finding textual details from across the text that support that theme.	I can cite details that support each of several themes, keeping straight which details support which themes. I don't just summarize—I also sometimes quote. I know the exact words used can help convey the theme.	I notice where the author develops each of several themes. I can sort details to show which go with which theme, and I can rank which details seem most important and discuss why.

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