“Pausing to Connect” is a reading strategy that helps readers gain deeper understandings of the texts they read. Skilled readers will often pause to make connections within a text. They will ask questions such as:

1. What do I understand so far? What don’t I understand?
2. What information does the author need to clarify?
3. What is the author saying in this paragraph/section of text?
4. What is the author doing in this paragraph/section of text?
5. What words or phrases are important? How do these terms or phrases connect to what the author is arguing?
6. How does what I just read connect to the above paragraph or section?
7. What is the author trying to get me to think about here?
8. Why has the author repeated this word?
9. What is the author’s purpose?
10. How successful has the author been in accomplishing their purpose?
11. How has this section or paragraph helped my understanding of the text as a whole?
12. Summarize what you have read.
13. What does the reading remind you of? What connections can you make?
14. What questions does the text raise for you? Speculate about the answers.