



The Literacy Center

An Organizational System for a Magic Tree House Series Study



The Literacy Center is set up for independent work. There is a basket labeled for each of the twenty-eight or more Magic Tree House books that the students are reading. Each basket is filled with multiple copies of the books, the companion Magic Tree House Research Guide, and activities from the Magic Tree House website.

The students continue to fill their basket with other books or artifacts that pertain to the book they are reading. These baskets are “treasure chests” of these connections. For example, the *Midnight on the Moon* basket contains a **text-to-world** connection of close up photographs of the moon, Saturn, and Mercury, which were taken by one of the student’s dad. Another student brought in a magnolia flower for the *Dinosaurs Before Dark* basket. A beautifully decorated sarcophagus was created by two students and is found in the *Mummies in the Morning* basket. In addition, the students add books from other authors where they have made a **text-to-text** connection. **Text-to-self** connections may be found with the inclusion of pieces of artwork, family photographs or a favorite stuffed animal.

As students finish one book and before they continue onto another, a “Connections” booklet (next page) is filled out. They will write about some of the significant connections to the characters, events or settings in the book and reflect why it helped them understand the story. (Great reading comprehension and writing strategy!)

The students participate in this center after regularly assigned class work has been completed or during special magic Tree House time blocks. This is a great ongoing activity.

Suggestion: Use 12’ x 15’ oversized baskets and tape a 12’ x 12’ thin board or heavy cardboard to the top of the baskets to allow the baskets to be placed on top of one another for convenient storage and easy access.

To make the book: First fold the paper horizontally and then vertically.

MTHLP3-112

While reading, I made a text-to-_____ connection.

My new connection, after reading this book, will be to (what will you read or research next and why)

4

3

Connections...

take you places!



(# of book)

(name of book)

Traveled to _____



text-to-text



text-to-world



text-to-self

1

2

While reading, I made a text-to-_____ connection.

While reading, I made a text-to-_____ connection.

I connected to this favorite scene.

I connected to the character _____ because

The Magic Tree House Literacy Center is set up to hold all the necessary materials to work on any of the lessons. The Backpack Travel Journals, the Connections Baskets, and the finished tree houses are all housed in this “cozy corner” where the students love to spend time reading, researching, and creating.

