

Connections is an adult literacy program offered in partnership with adult basic education and ESOL classes, the prisons, and refugee resettlement organizations. Participants are both native speakers and new Americans. The program uses the best of children's literature and NHHC-trained facilitators to

- *promote English language skills*
- *promote a culture of reading*
- *nurture conversation in which readers contribute their own ideas, stories, and interpretations*
- *and reinforce family literacy*



Kapil Dhungel of Concord translates from English to Nepali in a project to support English language acquisition for Nepali speakers.

Cover photo: Manchester Adult Learning Center students and their teacher Donna Morin read stories on the theme of world cultures in a *Connections* series.

Learn more about
Connections on the
NH Humanities Council's
website at
www.nhhc.org/Connections.php
or contact ***Connections*** Program
Director Terry Farish at
603-224-4071 x12 or
tfarish@nhhc.org



Connections



**Book discussions
for new readers
and new Americans**



Katherine Paterson signs her Newbury Award-winning novel, *Bridge to Terabithia*, at the New Hampshire Humanities Council "Evening with Katherine Paterson" sponsored by the *Connections* program.

"Stories are at the center, not at the edge (of education). They are at the center not only because stories help shape our lives and society, but because they have the power to lure us into learning."

Katherine Paterson
The Spying Heart

***Connections* is a fun, community-building book club. *Connections* groups meet for four discussions.**

Best of all, participants tell us, they keep their books to read again and share with others.

For newly literate students, *Connections* focuses on illustration and storytelling to explore a book. In the prisons, *Connections* offers a poetry series and discussion of books to connect inmates with their children.

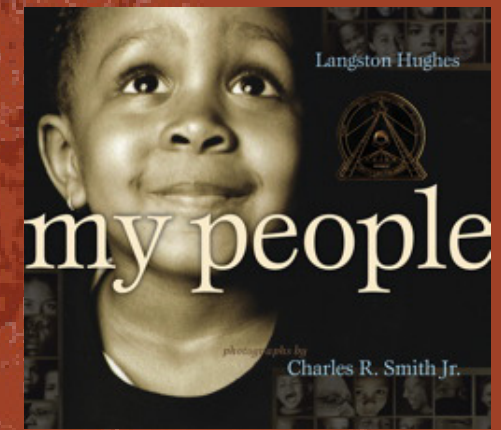
Connections participants say:

"We practice pronunciation. The conversation helps me the most. Before, I did not speak. Now I do."

"We were laughing. We were crying. From reading the book we were reliving moments of our lives."

***Connections* is available to adult education programs and other organizations supporting adult readers. The *Connections* grant pays for books for each student and the facilitator's stipend.**

Learn more about *Connections* and the application process and find the forms you need to apply at www.nhhc.org/Connections.php.



Connections creates reading lists based on themes. Teachers can select a theme and then choose books on the reading level that suits their class. They can also mix and match titles to create a theme that supports their curriculum.

See the thematic lists at www.nhhc.org/Connections.php.

"*Connections* gave us a creative connection to our children."



Connections participants in a Family Connections Center series at the New Hampshire State Prison in Concord.