Title: Flat Stanley: The Amazing Mexican Secret Level: N ISBN: 9780061429989Publisher: Harper Collins **Teaching Point**: Readers make connections.

**Before Reading: (5-7 min.)**

\*Summarize plot (M) \*Discuss pictures (M)

\*Unfamiliar book language/character names (S) \*Draw upon students’ experiences (M)

**Book Introduction:** The title of this book is The Amazing Mexican Secret. Look at the front cover of the book. What do you think this book will be about? Discuss. Let’s read the back cover together. Discuss.

**Chapter 1:** Stanley, Arthur, and Carlos are pretending they are bullfighters. At breakfast, Mrs. Lambchop decides to send Stanley on an adventure. Read to find out where he is going.

**Words/Text Layout:**

* New or important words (V)

**matador (2) inexpensively (2) practically (13)**

* Unusual aspect of text layout (V)

\*Some words are written in Spanish. Those words are usually in italic print. Show students an example on the first page.

**Intentional Teaching Point** (refer to flip chart):

Readers make connections.

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**During Reading: (10-15 min.)**

Listen in to students while they read. Reinforce the teaching point, help with decoding, check for understanding

and provide specific feedback.

**After Reading: (8-10 min.)**

* Connect discussion to the teaching point and/or a comprehension strategy (see above)

What connections did you make today? How did that connection help you understand the story better?

* Discussion Questions

-Why does Mrs. Lambchop want to send Stanley to Mexico?

-How does Stanley feel about being flat?

-How would you describe Arthur?

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**Chapter 2:** What happened in the last chapter? Discuss. In this chapter, Stanley arrives in Mexico. He finds himself right by a stadium used for bullfighting. Read to find out what happens.

**Words/Text Layout:**

* New or important words (V)

**massive (17) corridors (21) flourish (23) hoisted (25)**

* Unusual aspect of text layout (V)

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**After Reading: (8-10 min.)**

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What connections did you make today? How did that connection help you understand the story better?

* Discussion Questions

-When Stanley gets to Mexico, why does he think everyone is clapping? Why are they really clapping?

-Who does Stanley meet?

-How does he end up in the ring?

-What happens in the ring?

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**Chapter 3:** What happened in the last chapter? Discuss. In this chapter, Stanley is at Carmen’s house where her family is celebrating the bullfight. He meets some other children. Read to find out what happens.

**Words/Text Layout:**

* New or important words (V)

**lethal (30) villains (30) aerodynamic (30) indestructible (35)**

* Unusual aspect of text layout (V)

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**During Reading: (10-15 min.)**

Listen in to students while they read. Reinforce the teaching point, help with decoding, check for understanding

and provide specific feedback.

**After Reading: (8-10 min.)**

* Connect discussion to the teaching point and/or a comprehension strategy (see above)

What connections did you make today? How did that connection help you understand the story better?

* Discussion Questions

-What stories does Stanley tell the kids at Carmen’s house?

-Why do the kids use him as a piñata?

-Where are the kids taking Stanley?

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**Chapter 4:** What happened in the last chapter? Discuss. In this chapter, Stanley begins the journey to see La Abuela with the children. In the last chapter, the children warned him that it would be dangerous. What do you think will happen?

**Words/Text Layout:**

* New or important words (V)

**luxury (38) empire (41) descendants (42) sous chef (45)**

* Unusual aspect of text layout (V)

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**During Reading: (10-15 min.)**

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and provide specific feedback.

**After Reading: (8-10 min.)**

* Connect discussion to the teaching point and/or a comprehension strategy (see above)

What connections did you make today? How did that connection help you understand the story better?

* Discussion Questions

-What is the journey like?

-Who do they meet?

-What do the chefs want?

-Who saves the children and Stanley?

-What do you think will happen next?

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**Chapter 5:** What happened in the last chapter? Discuss. In this chapter, Stanley and Carmen continue on the journey to find La Abuela’s house. Stanley is surprised when they reach the top of the pyramid. Read to find out why he is surprised when he reaches the top.

**Words/Text Layout:**

* New or important words (V)

**sulked (53) silhouette (56)**

* Unusual aspect of text layout (V)

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**During Reading: (10-15 min.)**

Listen in to students while they read. Reinforce the teaching point, help with decoding, check for understanding

and provide specific feedback.

**After Reading: (8-10 min.)**

* Connect discussion to the teaching point and/or a comprehension strategy (see above)

What connections did you make today? How did that connection help you understand the story better?

* Discussion Questions

-Describe the conversation between Stanley and Carmen about fairness. Discuss.

-What happens at the top of the pyramid?

-What do you think will happen next?

**Writing Connection:** As you are reading today, try to make connections between what you already know (schema) and what you read today. Note: You can give students these prompts to help them make and write better connections: “The book said…. “this reminded me of” … “because”.

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**Chapter 6:** What happened in the last chapter? Discuss. In this chapter, Stanley dives into the pond and goes on a journey to find La Abuela. At the end, he’ll come upon a surprise. Read to find out what happens.

**Words/Text Layout:**

* New or important words (V)

**piercing (61) swarming (62) quivered (67) triumphantly (68)**

* Unusual aspect of text layout (V)

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**After Reading: (8-10 min.)**

* Connect discussion to the teaching point and/or a comprehension strategy (see above)

What connections did you make today? How did that connection help you understand the story better?

* Discussion Questions

-What was it like for Stanley to go through the cave? How do you think you would’ve felt if you were in his shoes?

-Why did Stanley panic?

-How did La Abuela react to seeing Stanley? Why do you think she reacted that way?

-Who showed up at the end?

-What do you think will happen next with the spies?

**Writing Connection:** As you are reading today, try to make connections between what you already know (schema) and what you read today. Note: You can give students these prompts to help them make and write better connections: “The book said…. “this reminded me of” … “because”.

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**Chapter 7:** What happened in the last chapter? Discuss. In this chapter, Chef Lillou and his spies have just found La Abuela’s home. They come in her house to find the secret ingredient. Do you think they’ll get it?

**Words/Text Layout:**

* New or important words (V)

**inhaled (73) coriander (73) cilantro (73) pesto (75)**

* Unusual aspect of text layout (V)

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and provide specific feedback.

**After Reading: (8-10 min.)**

* Connect discussion to the teaching point and/or a comprehension strategy (see above)

What connections did you make today? How did that connection help you understand the story better?

* Discussion Questions

-How do Stanley and La Abuela trick the spies?

-What do the spies find outside?

-Is there a secret ingredient?

-What does La Abuela say the secret is?

**Writing Connection:** As you are reading today, try to make connections between what you already know (schema) and what you read today. Note: You can give students these prompts to help them make and write better connections: “The book said…. “this reminded me of” … “because”.

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**Chapter 8:** What happened in the last chapter? Discuss. In this chapter, Carmen and Stanley are getting ready to bull fight again. Stanley is surprised to see someone he knows in the audience. Who do you think it will be?

**Words/Text Layout:**

* New or important words (V)

**dramatic (79) myth (79) hysterical (82) gored (84)**

* Unusual aspect of text layout (V)

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**After Reading: (8-10 min.)**

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What connections did you make today? How did that connection help you understand the story better?

* Discussion Questions

-What actually makes bulls charge?

-Who shows up at the bull fight? Why are they there?

-What does the quote on page 87 mean? “The secret is not the ingredient. It is what you do with it.”

-What is the theme of the story?

**Writing Connection:** As you are reading today, try to make connections between what you already know (schema) and what you read today. Note: You can give students these prompts to help them make and write better connections: “The book said…. “this reminded me of” … “because”.