Common Threads
Literacy Skills / Comprehension

**Procedure**

1. Common Threads helps students relate their experiences to the story/character prior to reading.

2. Before reading, ask students to think about a difficult situation they’ve experienced. The situation may or may not be related to the story.

3. Encourage students to talk about their situations/experiences. How did students cope with the situation? Did the experience change them in any way?

4. Explain to students that you’re asking them to think about these experiences is that the main character in the book they will be reading faces a difficult or unusual situation. They will learn about the situation when they read the book, but first you want them to think about their own experiences.

5. Write the headings “problem,” “solution,” and “how changed?” on the board. Model the activity by giving an experience from your own life. Elaborate orally on these responses as you write them. Tell students that you are writing quickly and not worrying about spelling or using complete sentences.

6. After modeling, have students write their own problems, solutions, and changes.

7. Let students share their experiences with the class. You may want to record some on the board or a chart.

8. After ample discussion, introduce the story and relay the setting of the story to the class discussion.

**Materials**

1. Read aloud with obvious conflict and solution

**Virginia SOLs**

1.9, 2.5, 2.8