



*"Any topic you want to be able to read about is a topic you must become knowledgeable about." ~E.D. Hirsch Jr. and Lisa Hansel*

"...what students already know about the content is one of the strongest indicators of how well they will learn new information relative to the content." (Marzano) Building background knowledge both helps students engage with complex texts and ensures that learning sticks. Independently selecting and reading texts, along with engaging in dynamic experiences connected to upcoming topics or themes, builds this important content knowledge. When students head into the school year armed with knowledge about upcoming content, they are better able to access and develop a

