1. Choose a Focus. You may model this on, or use and build on, one of the chapters in *Reading to Make a Difference*. The focus may be something like “Lending a Helping Hand,” or “Being a Better Friend,” or “Strong People do Hard Things,” or “Girls Speak Out,” or “Learning from Math,” or “Lessons from History,” or…
2. Explain, with references to any or all of our texts, why the focus is important to children, classrooms, communities, families, and the world.
3. Choose the 5 Best Friend books that you will read aloud during this focus study. Explain why you chose each and how each book meets the standard of a Best Friend book.
4. Reflect on the first read aloud. What book would you choose? Why? How does it set the stage for the focus study?
5. What kinds of personal connections (schema connections) do you imagine children will be able to make to the focus? You may want to think of a single age/grade here.
6. How might you guide children to take action based on what they are learning?