

Readers' Theater

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What's in Store?

For a change ... let's begin at the end!
What is reader's theater?

What's the point?

Let's Build a Lesson

Assessment, really?

You're a Star!

Worth a Click!



What do you **see** or **hear** in this clip? Write in the chat while you watch.



What did you see and hear?

We saw 3 girls:

- holding scripts
- reading from the scripts
- making gestures
- having a good time

We heard:

- fluent reading
- good intonation and expression
- giggling



What makes a good reader?



How Do You Best Connect with Young Learners?

“ ... teachers in this study seemed to create shared experiences that focus on imaginative exercises (like shared reading) as their own *mysterious glue* to make connections with their students.”

Dr. Ken Raemer, University of Winnipeg, Canada

Is reader's theater a shared experience?



Note down the benefits you notice in this clip!

Final Few Minutes of a Reader's Theater Lesson



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Benefits?

reading fluency and accuracy

reading comprehension

increases a love of literature

allows for differentiation by offering choice

improves speaking skills

gets pupils moving

shared experiences = student engagement

enhances presentation and pronunciation skills

Now I've got you hooked ...



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So Much Choice! How Do I Choose a Script?



Is it age and content appropriate?



Is the language suitable for the class?



Are there enough roles for the majority of my pupils?



Are there harder and easier roles?



Are there choral parts too?



Is it fun?

A Sample RT Script: Too Much Noise

Does it tick boxes???



A Sample RT Script: Too Much Noise

Does it tick boxes?

Grade: 5

Age, content and language appropriateness: Good

Number of Speaking Roles:
9

Differential roles: yes

Chorus: yes (all together + animal sounds)

Fun: Of course yes!

Orthographic Patterns

all as in wall, tall, call, fall

ou as in outside, loud, house, get out, take them outside

New Vocabulary:

wall to wall

a cute baby

bring them inside / outside

a loud noise

to knock on the door

a goat

noise / noisy

get out of my house

a wise man

Just a minute! Before you read the text aloud together, click PAUSE!



Break the Ice

Do you prefer going on a crowded bus or a half-empty bus? Why?

OR

Think back to distance teaching during Corona lockdowns.

Did you experience TOO MUCH NOISE at home? How did you cope?



Some Examples of Pre-Reading Activities

- Review orthographic patterns: all + ou
- Pre-teach new vocabulary: flashcards / quizlet / memory games
- Practice new vocabulary: multi-choice / yes, no / fill in the missing letter or word
- Pre-reading activities: circle all the names / underline all the animals / which words appear 5+ times / colour pairs of rhyming words
- Let's guess what the script will be about!!

Training for Young Actors: Brain Breaks



agree to pretend



cooperation and respect



concentrate



use gestures (There was too much noise! / There is help on the way!)



use sound effects (mooing, chirping, clapping, singing, fighting)

And finally, to the script!



Teacher reads text aloud with **LOTS OF EXPRESSION OR** plays an audio clip of the text being read aloud on the LT site



Assess comprehension



Offer students choice of roles



Students highlight their lines

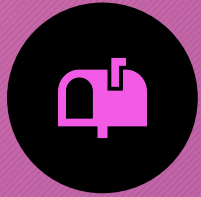


Practice reading silently, then in pairs. Teacher walks around checking and listening out for accuracy and correct intonation.



Read the script together!

FAQ's



Do the pupils need to memorize their lines?



Can they make or use props?



Can my pupils dress up in costumes?



What should I do with the pupils who can't read yet?



What should I do if the script I like only has a few reading parts?

Assessment! Really?

Students are evaluated
based on:

volume of
voice

clarity of
pronunciation

reading
accuracy

expression

reading
fluency

posture

eye contact

What Kind of Assessment?

Self-Assessment

Pupils should ask themselves questions about their performance and write tips for improvement the next time around.



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Peer-Assessment

Pupils can create a peer-assessment template and use it to assess each other so that they can formulate constructive feedback for their classmates.

This activity not only helps others, but helps those doing the assessment too!



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Teacher-Assessment

The teacher can use this activity as a form of alternative assessment, formative assessment or summative assessment, depending on her objectives.



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Steps to Stardom!

small groups

whole class

perform for younger classes

invite parents

school performance

regional performance



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Worth a Click:

- Watch this Model Reader's Theater Lesson
- Let's Talk: Reader's Theater Section
- Reader's Theater: Oral Language Enrichment and Literacy Development for ELLs
- Reader's Theater: Giving Students a Reason to Read Aloud
- Teacher Vision: Reader's Theater
- Reader's Theater Tips

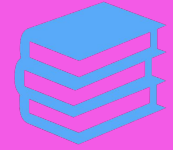
So what can we do now?



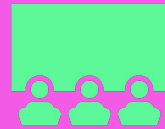
We definitely know what reader's theater is by now!



We understand how our pupils can benefit



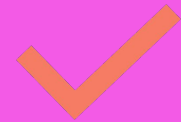
We can build a lesson or a unit around a reader's theater script



We can use self, peer and teacher assessment for reader's theater



We can turn our pupils into actors and even stars!



We can access recommended resources

Thank You for Listening

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