

Readers Theatre

Day 1

- Distribute a copy of the script to each student
- Read the title of the script and its author together with the students
- Encourage students to make predictions about the story, character etc.
- Read the script aloud to the students as they follow along
- Ask for feedback: Did you like the story? Does this story remind you of another story?
- With pupil input generate a list of vocabulary words from the script. Write the words on the board or on large sheets of paper and keep the list posted for the duration of the project. Refer to the list daily, focusing on the words' pronunciation and meaning

Day 2

- Divide the class into pairs. Assign a number of pages to be read-longer scripts can be divided into several parts-and a time limit for paired reading. Pupils should take turns reading every other entry in the script. This ensures that they will have the same amount of material to read. Pairs can re-read the pages again if they finish before the end of the assigned reading time.
- While the students are reading the script, circulate among them to offer assistance in the correct pronunciation, reading with feeling and emotion, and reading at an appropriate rate and volume
- Close the session by doing a group read-around of the script or by assigning roles and having students perform a segment of the script.

Days 3 and 4

- Continue the paired reading and circulating and modelling, until the entire script has been read by all the students
- Once the students become familiar with the script they can begin working in groups of three or four, with each group member reading an assigned role or roles

Day 5

Option 1

Assign parts and let the pupils perform informally for their class or for other classes. A reader can read more than one part, especially if there are several smaller parts. Everyone should be given an equal opportunity to read as much of the text as possible or students with smaller parts may see themselves as poorer readers and may lose interest or enthusiasm

Option 2

On certain occasions the students can engage in giving a major performance. This can be done by assigning roles, transforming the classroom into a theatre and inviting other classes or parents to a special presentation. Such production may feature two or three groups, with each group reading a different script.