

Drama Queen's Theater

Adapt a "just right" book into a play for practice reading aloud.



The Goal: Fluent Oral Reading

The goal of dramatic read-alouds is to help students read smoothly. Note that this lesson doesn't call for memorization; students read from scripts throughout practice and performance.

Main Steps for Prep

Your tasks as teacher:

1. Choose a scene.
2. Provide a marked copy for each reader.
3. Model expressive reading.
4. Allow several days for rehearsal.



Choosing a Scene

Choosing a scene is the toughest part of planning. These tips may ease your way.

- Ideally your child always has a [just-right book](#) underway. This is your best starting place! The difficulty level will be appropriate and the material will hold interest.
- **Book suggestions** for use with grades 1 to 5 are on the next page.
- Teaching ESL? Teens and adults can have fun with **TV scripts!** Free scripts for [Seinfeld](#), [Friends](#) and other shows are online.
- **It's OK if the scene lacks dialogue.** You can assign lines to Narrator 1, Narrator 2, and so forth.
- Obviously it's quickest to use a scene as-is... but if you're motivated to **rewrite** the content, look for the text online. Copying and pasting will speed up your work.

Model Expressive Reading

Say that it's important to enunciate, use expression, and project your voice when reading aloud.

- Model a good example.
- Then mumble some not-so-great reading and ask, "What could I do better?"
- Next, model reading too quickly. Point out that pacing is important.

Give Time for Rehearsal

Assign the script and allow several days for practice. Student(s) should aim to read aloud at least once per day. If you like, encourage the use of simple costumes and props.

Suggested Books for Small Groups

As already mentioned, the best resource might be your child's current reading book... but your options are infinite! Here are some books that work well for two to four readers.

- **Grade 1:** "[If You Give a Mouse a Cookie](#)" and "[If You Give a Pig a Pancake](#)" lend themselves to cozy read-alouds. One person can be the mouse or pig, and another person or two can narrate.
- **Grades 2 & 3:** Try a long Shel Silverstein poem such as "Sarah Cynthia Sylvia Stout Would Not Take the Garbage Out." This poem from "[Where the Sidewalk Ends](#)" can be shared by two to four readers.
- **Grade 4:** The book "[Because of Winn-Dixie](#)" is rich with emotion. Chapter 1 is a nice length for read-alouds by three or four people.
- **Grade 5:** "[Charlie and the Chocolate Factory](#)" lends itself to fun with dramatic reading. Assign multiple narrators if needed.

For more great books, visit the Treehouse Library at SuddenHomeschool.com.

