**Reader’s Theater**

Putting on a short play, based on a story, where students read from a script is what Reader’s Theater is all about. The purpose of Reader’s Theater is to practice reading fluency and to have fun! True Reader’s Theater uses no costumes or props and focuses on fluency and expression to entertain.

But adding costumes and props is a fun touch!

You can find many pre-made scripts out there or you can create your own. I prefer to create my own so I can tailor the language to my student’s reading abilities. It’s also a fun guided writing activity to write a script, as a class.

Putting on a Reader’s Theater play requires preparation, practice and performance. Here’s how we do all 3 in my classroom:

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<th>Preparation</th>
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| 1. Find or write a script.  
**Highlight, ahead of time, the lines for each character on each script.**  
2. Read the selected book to your students.  
3. Show the script to students so they get a sense of how long the play will be. (Using an overhead, document camera or SmartBoard).  
4. Assign or choose roles for students.  
5. Students highlight their lines in their scripts (if they’re older). | 1. Teacher reads the *entire* play to show how to use expression when reading. Students follow along.  
2. Teacher reads the *entire* play again but this time the characters read along.  
3. Same characters meet to rehearse lines together, working on expression and possibly gestures.  
4. Each play (usually 3, so all kids are included) meets to rehearse for the big performance. | 1. One play at a time performs for the rest of the class.  
“Remind actors that they need to: read loud enough, keep their script down (not in front of their face), and change their voices (expression) to make the play interesting.  
“Remind the audience that they need to: stay seated on their bottoms, pay attention with eyes and ears and clap at the end.  
2. At the end of each play debrief with the audience.  
“Using thumbs up, to the side and down: How did the actors do with reading loud enough? Keeping their scripts down? Changing their voices?  
““What did you like about the play/What did the actors do a good job of?”  
““Is there anyway they could make the play better?” |

From start to finish this process can take as long as you’d like. You can split it up over a few days (in the place of Guided Reading, for example) or complete it in an hour. It just depends on your needs, style and time available.

Reader’s Theater is so fun and really brings the best out of kids! This is also a great thing to invite parents to, so they can watch their kid’s reading in action.
Narrator: It’s a sunny morning in the forest and Moose was out looking for a snack.

Moose: I’m hungry and tree bark looks good to me.

Narrator: As he searched for a yummy tree, he tripped and bonked his head on one.

Moose: Ouch!

Narrator: He bumped his tooth.

Moose: These big teeth of mine are always getting in the way.

Narrator: With his tongue, he felt around the inside of his mouth.

Moose: Ooh, I have a loose tooth. I can wiggle it back and forth with my tongue.

Narrator: Moose had never had a loose tooth before.

Bird: Do you have a loose tooth Moose?

Moose: Yes and I’m afraid it’s going to fall out.

Bird: That’s what baby teeth do.

Moose: Baby teeth? But I’m not a baby!
Narrator: Baby teeth are the first teeth in your mouth. As you grow up, they start to fall out.

Moose: But if I lose all my teeth, how will I eat tree bark?

Bird: When a baby tooth falls out, a permanent tooth comes in. That new tooth will stay in your mouth forever.

Moose: Oh, that makes me feel better. So how do I get this wibbly wobbly tooth out?

Bird: I could use my beak to pull it out.

Narrator: Bird pulled with all his might, but that tooth just held on tight.

Tiger: Did I hear something about a loose tooth?

Moose: Yes. I have a wibbly wobbly loose tooth.

Tiger: Let me help then.

Narrator: Bird used her beak and Tiger pulled Bird. They pulled with all their might, but that tooth just held on tight.

Tiger: That is one stubborn tooth you have Moose.

Moose: Oh this tooth will *never* fall out.

Zebra: Did I hear something about a loose tooth?

Moose: Yes. I have a wibbly wobbly loose tooth.
Zebra: Let me help then. I’ll pull on Tiger and Tiger can pull on Bird and Bird can use her beak to yank it out.

Narrator: Once again they pulled with all their might, but that tooth just held on tight.

Zebra: That is one stubborn tooth you have Moose.

Moose: Maybe I will never lose this baby tooth.

Elephant: Did I hear something about a loose tooth?

Bird: Yes you did.

Tiger: Moose has a very loose but very stubborn tooth.

Zebra: Do you want to help?

Elephant: Sure. I can help you all pull.

Moose: WAIT! I don’t think we should pull anymore because what am I going to do with the tooth when it comes out anyway? My tooth has the perfect spot right now in my mouth.

Bird: But Moose you have to put your tooth under your pillow.

Moose: What? Why?

Zebra: Haven’t you heard of the Tooth Fairy?

Tiger: If you put your tooth under your pillow, she will come in the middle of the night to take your tooth and leave you a present in its place.

Elephant: I bet she’s never seen a moose’s tooth before!
Moose: Well why didn’t you say that earlier? Heave, ho everybody!

Narrator: So one final time they all pulled with all their might but that wibbly wobbly tooth still held tight.

Moose: I give up!

Elephant: You can have one of my tusks Moose.

Moose: No thank you Elephant. WAIT, Elephant you are coming with me!

Narrator: Moose took Elephant home to his house and put him under his pillow.

Moose: Nighty night Elephant...and NO snoring!

Narrator: The next morning, after a bumpy night’s sleep, Moose woke up and found Elephant still asleep.

Moose: Wake up Elephant! I want to see if the Tooth Fairy came.

Narrator: Under his pillow were five shiny quarters. One for Bird, Tiger, Zebra and Elephant to thank them for helping Moose.

Moose: The note says, “Your tooth will soon fall out Moose. Sometimes teeth can be very stubborn. When your tooth does fall out, just place it under your pillow and I’ll be back.”

Elephant: So that’s how the Tooth Fairy works. Then I think I have a loose tusk.

Bird/Zebra/Tiger: Us too!

Moose: The End.
Thank you so much for downloading this Readers' Theater script.

You might also be interested in a Readers' Theater Tooth Fairy PACK:

www.teacherspayteachers.com/Product/Readers-Theater-Tooth-Fairy-PACK
Graphics

Scrap Paper

Frames

Fonts

KG Behind These Hazel Eyes

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