

Reading Aloud to Groups

Selecting the book and preparation

- Do you like the book? Your enthusiasm is the most important part of the read-aloud.
- Do the pictures show well from a distance?
- Can you read the text easily from the page at arm's distance? Consider contrast between the background and the text, and size of the text.
- How long is the book? Does it seem right for the audience and occasion? (You can ask a librarian for help or advice.)
- Practice holding and showing the book (see below) to make sure that it is not too heavy, awkward, or floppy. Hard-cover books are best for holding steady.
- Practice reading the entire book aloud, holding it for an audience. If possible, practice with a friend or family member to give you feedback on whether they can see, whether they can hear you, and if you are reading too fast. You should try reading twice as slowly as sounds right to you.
- Are there any difficult phrases you may need to practice more? Do you know how to pronounce the author's and illustrator's names? (If not, this tool can help!
<http://www.teachingbooks.net/pronunciations.cgi>)

Set up

- Sit a little higher than your audience so they can see; if they are on the floor, you should be in a low chair; if they are in chairs, you may want to be on a stool.
- Arrange your audience so they can best see (as close as possible, but not too far to the side)

Holding the book

- Hold the book up, from the bottom, with one hand to the side, so that it is at your shoulder height and faces forward, and you can move your arm easily. (You can put pinky and thumb in front, the rest behind; or thumb behind, and other fingers pinched low together in the front.)
- Use your other hand to turn the pages, while keeping the book held up to the side.
- Move the book slowly from one side to the other, across your body to help participants see details better (You don't do this for every page, but when the pictures call for it; it gives you a chance to catch your breath.)

Reading the book

- Always start by reading the title, author and illustrator on the title page (older kids are generally familiar with this, but younger kids especially are still learning the parts of a book).
- Remember to read slowly.
- Project your voice so that even people in the back can hear; it helps to sit forward in your chair so that you give your lungs and diaphragm full range of movement.
- Don't be afraid to pause to let participants fill in the blank, if a book has lots of repetition or calls for guessing what something is.
- Allow the story to tell itself. It is okay to answer a quick question but usually best to just say "You can ask me questions or tell me things as soon as the story is over!"
- If you can, do voices for different characters. You can simple change pitch from high to low.
- Consider leading a quick song or stretch between books if you will be reading more than one. Librarians can help you with this.
- Have fun!

Lectura en voz alta a los grupos

Seleccionar el libro y preparar

- ¿Te gusta el libro? Tu entusiasmo es importante.
- ¿Se puede ver las ilustraciones a distancia?
- ¿Puedes leer fácilmente el texto?
- ¿Cuánto de largo es el libro?
- Práctica sosteniendo y mostrando el libro para asegurarte que no pesa demasiado. Libros de tapa dura sirven mejor que libros de papel.
- Práctica leer el libro entero con un público, si es posible, para reacción. Intenta leer a velocidad más lenta que te parece posible.
- ¿Hay frases difíciles que necesitas practicar más? ¿Sabes cómo pronunciar el nombre del escritor e ilustrador? (Si no, este sitio de web te puede ayudar. <http://teachingbooks.net/pronunciations.cgi>)

Organizar la sala

- Siéntate un poco más alto que tu público para que puedan ver. Si ellos están sentados an el suelo, debes sentarte en una silla baja. Si ellos están sentados en sillas, podrás pararte.
- Organiza el público para que todos puedan ver (cerca pero no demasiado al lado)

Sostener el libro

- Sostiene el libro del fondo, con una mano, y al lado, para que esté a la altura de los hombros y con cara adelante, y puedes mover fácilmente el brazo.
- Usa la otra mano para cambiar las páginas, mientras el libro esté al lado.
- Muévelo lentamente de un lado al otro para que todos puedan ver.

Leer el libro

- Siempre empieza por leer el título del libro y el nombre del autor e ilustrador.
- Lee lentamente
- Proyecta tu voz para que todos puedan oír.
- No tengas miedo de parar y dejar que alguien del público comple la frase.
- Deja que el cuento cumple antes de responder a preguntas or explicar algo.
- Si puedes, usa voces para los personajes.
- Si vas a leer más de un libro, considera un canto o otra cosa antes de leer el Segundo.
- **¡Diviértete!**