

## Big Five: Module 3: Handout 8

### Promoting reading fluency – showing practice activities rehearsed in small groups

- A. **Choral reading** (or **echo reading**) (Choral reading is reading aloud in unison with a whole class or group of students. Choral reading helps build students' fluency, self-confidence, and motivation. Because students are reading aloud together, students who may ordinarily feel self-conscious or nervous about reading aloud have built-in support).
- B. **Partner or buddy interactive reading** (Paired reading is a research-based fluency strategy used with readers who lack fluency. In this strategy, students read aloud to each other. When using partners, more fluent readers can be paired with less fluent readers, or children who read at the same level can be paired to reread a story they have already read. Paired reading can be used with any book, taking turns reading by sentence, paragraph, page, or chapter).
- C. Performance reading for fluency practice
1. **Readers' theatre** (rehearsing and performing before an audience a script that is rich with dialogue) Example: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zchnjZHccQ4>.
    - Here is an A-Z link for several first grade scripts: <https://www.readingaz.com/fluency/readers-theater-scripts/>.
    - Here is another link to Teaching Heart scripts — the quality of some of the scripts appears to vary: <http://www.teachingheart.net/readersheater.htm>
    - Here is a Reading Rockets link about readers' theatre with some scripts citing various urls: [http://www.readingrockets.org/strategies/readers\\_theater](http://www.readingrockets.org/strategies/readers_theater) (Tacky the Penguin is shown as a LINK on the Reading Rockets page).
    - Here is a link to Dr. Chase Young's Professional Development page which includes varied grade level reader theatre scripts: <http://www.thebestclass.org/rtscripts.html>

#### 2. **Radio reading (see description below)**

In radio reading, each student is given a script to read aloud. Selections can be drawn from any print media, such as newspapers, magazines, or any print source that can be converted into a news story, such as short selections from articles or sections in information books. One student acts as the news anchor, while other students act in the roles of various reporters presenting the weather, sports, breaking news, and so on. Only the radio readers and the teacher have copies of the scripts. Because other students have no script to follow, minor word recognition errors will go unnoticed, if the text is well presented. Struggling students enjoy radio.

Before performing a radio reading for an audience, students should rehearse their parts with a partner or the teacher until they gain confidence and read the script with proper volume, accuracy, rate, phrasing, and expression. Emphasis is first placed on the meaning of the text segments so that the students can paraphrase any difficult portions of the text if needed during the presentation. Students are encouraged to keep ideas flowing in the same way a reporter or anchor person does. After thorough rehearsal of the script with sound effects, the radio play is taped on a cassette recorder and played for others (Reutzel & Cooter, 2008, p. 183).

- D. How might you use one of these techniques in your classroom? Explain.