

How to Use These Reader's Theater Scripts

- 1) Language arts, whole class fluency work
- 2) Language arts, reading group fluency work
- 3) During math, social studies, or science
- 4) To introduce a new concept
- 5) To enhance or add variety during a unit of study
- 6) To review immediately after a unit
- 7) To review before a benchmark or standardized test
- 8) To perform for parents
- 9) To perform for younger students
- 10) To perform for older students
- 11) To build teamwork
- 12) To improve public speaking and performance skills
- 13) To spark creative writing
- 14) To improve confidence
- 15) To improve interpersonal skills
- 16) To demonstrate that reading is fun!

Reader's Theater

You may select your scripts by content, by reading level and/or by word study features. Scripts are leveled by individual character part, so students may be grouped together even when their instructional reading levels are not the same.

You may wish to have the teacher or teachers model the script for students before reading, or you may assign students practice time at home or within their groups at school before they read aloud to you.

Using the Details pages, you will be able to see which word study features and sight words are prominent in each play. You may wish to have students identify the words that are in their current feature sorts.

For a small group activity, you may wish to have each student identify only the words within their own reading part that fit their feature pattern(s). Then you can look at the entire list together. Or you may wish to have each reader go through the entire script, identifying the word study features that he or she is studying. In some cases, you may be able to use one script, rich with a number of word study features, for different students who are studying different features. For example, in the script for *Get Set or Wet*, you'll find word study features for the ET word family as well as the long I, spelled IGH. You may have two different readers who are in different word study groups assigned to the same script. One may be highlighting ET family words in the script and then drawing pictures based on those words. The other reader may be circling all the IGH words found within the play and then writing a story using those same words.

Initially, you will find scripts that correlate with content standards for K-3, but over time, you'll begin to see scripts aligned with 4-8 standards, as well. If you want to use the scripts for their fluency-building and/or word study content value only, consider having your learners practice (over and over and over!) and then perform for another classroom (in a higher or lower grade) that is studying the featured content.

For writing practice, have students who are in the audience for a given performance write thank you notes or fan mail to the performers, describing something that they learned or facts they remembered as they enjoyed the play.