

Reader's Theater

By Susan Brown

What Is Reader's Theater?

Reader's Theater is the oral presentation of a written work that is performed with two or more readers. Memorization is not required because the focus of this form of drama is on *reading* the work with expression rather than reciting it. The readers help the audience to understand and visualize the text through their vocal performance.

Benefits of Using Reader's Theater

- It gives purpose to reading.
- It helps children develop reading fluency through repetition.
- It increases comprehension since the text must be interpreted for performance.
- It motivates children to read.
- It improves not only reading skills, but listening and speaking skills as well.
- It encourages children to work together.
- Performing Reader's Theater helps increase self-confidence.

Tips for Teaching Children How to Perform Reader's Theater

- Encourage the children to read with expression and to enunciate the words.
- Teach the children how to project their voices so that they can be heard. Good posture helps with this.
- Pacing is important. Remind the children that they must be careful not to read too fast nor too slow, especially on unison parts.
- Show children how the script should be held. It's best if it is positioned below chin level so that the audience can see the faces of the performers. You may want to put the scripts in a three-ring binder or attach them to construction paper or card stock for ease of use.
- Explain the importance of using facial expressions and gestures. This will make the presentation more interesting for the audience.

- Costumes and props may be used if desired, but are not a requirement.
- The positions of each reader on stage is up to you and the performers. Keep in mind that the scripts were written with the concept of having Reader 1 on the audience's left and the rest of the readers standing in number order to the right.
- Practice makes perfect, especially on unison parts. Encourage the children to rehearse their parts both individually and with their group.

What You'll Find in This Book

This book contains scripts for 2–7 readers. The pieces are grouped into sections according to the number of readers required for each performance. While these scripts were created with Reader's Theater in mind, they could also potentially be memorized and used for other forms of dramatic presentation.

Where to Find More Scripts

If you like these scripts, you can find more on our website at www.WarmHeartsPublishing.com.

Also, if you would like to share your success stories with me, offer suggestions, or ask questions, please visit the Contact page on the Warm Hearts Publishing website. I would love to hear from you.

How Doth the Little Busy Bee

Isaac Watts

..... **CHARACTERS**

READER 1

READER 2

.....

READER 1: How doth the little busy bee
Improve each shining hour,

READER 2: And gather honey all the day
From every opening flower!

READER 1: How skillfully she builds her cell!
How neat she spreads the wax!

READER 2: And labors hard to store it well
With the sweet food she makes.

READER 1: In works of labor or of skill,
I would be busy too;

READER 2: For Satan finds some mischief still
For idle hands to do.

READER 1: In books, or work, or healthful play,
Let my first years be passed,

UNISON: That I may give for every day
Some good account at last.