

Readers Theater – Tips

The focus is reading and simplicity is the key.

Readers theater is minimal theater without elaborate settings, costumes and props. Just one item of clothing like a hat, scarf, apron or crown can identify a character. A simple but significant prop can be used. Nothing, however, should distract the reader or the audience from the script.

Scripts are read, not memorized.

Script should be held up but should not hide the reader's face.

Read slowly. Readers tend to go too fast, especially if they're a bit nervous.

Speak loud enough for all to hear.

Speak very clearly. Don't mumble!

Look up from script often. Face the audience.

The focus is the person to whom you address your lines. The focus can be the audience or another reader.

Stand up straight and don't fidget!

Mime techniques can be useful.

Use of music or sound effects can add interest, but any embellishments should not steal the show.

If a student has a stiff, monotone, 'robot' manner, try echo reading. Model reading the line with great expression and have the student repeat exactly.

Funny scripts are always a good choice. Scary (but not too scary) scripts also work well.

Practice!

Have fun with it.