

Title of Session: K-3+ Resources - Reader's Theater

Moderator: Sue Roseman

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Room: Comfy Conference Room

BjB: Sue, the discussion leader is also having technical difficulties...

BjB: I'm going to be your substitute discussion leader.

BjB: The topic is Readers Theatre

BjB: we usually start all the discussions here with introductions

BjB: I'm an art teacher in Pennsylvania and a helpdesk volunteer for Tapped In

BjB looks around the room

ShalomG: I'm Shalom Gustafson, a student at San Diego State University. I recently earned my teaching credential, elementary.

BrandyH: I am Brandy, I teach K/1 in San Diego

DeniseRe: Hi! I'm Denise. Recently earned my ms teaching credential in San Diego.

JenaS: I'm Jena Spurgeon, a recent credential student graduate. Still looking for a job!

BjB: what grade level, Jena?

JenaS: Elementary. I would love to teach Kinder

BjB: is anyone familiar with Readers Theatre?

JenaS: Definitely

BrandyH: I had a little experience with it in my 6th grade student teaching assignment

ShalomG: I'd like to become more familiar with it.

JenaS: I'd like to learn how I can use it more with younger children.

BjB: great..this will be a learning experience for us all ;-)

BjB: Sue sent me a trackstar site with a bunch of links...

BjB: <http://www.tinyurl.com/jtpo>

BjB: if you're not familiar with trackstar, there is a list of sites on the left menu...

BjB: and then descriptions and links to each topic on the main window

BjB: Aaron Shepard has been around for quite a while

BjB: anyone have experience with his stuff?

BrandyH: I don't

DeniseRe: No, not yet

ShalomG: I'm eager to learn, but no experience yet.

BjB: The scripts of the Month looks like a good resource...

BjB: I also like the sites where you can create your own scripts

BjB . o O (or perhaps have your students create the scripts?)

JenaS: I didn't realize there was so much out there pertaining to Readers Theatre. What a great site. It appears to have a writing component as well.

BjB nods to Jena

SusanR joined the room.

ShalomG: The Scripts of the Month seem to be a nice resource, especially for holidays etc.

SusanR: Hi everyone

SusanR: Just got on!

BjB cheers wildly...saved!

SusanR: Are you here for Reader's Theater

BrandyH: yes

BjB: I showed them your track, Sue

JenaS: Yes.

SusanR: I am at our local library.

BjB: but I'm sure I'm not doing it justice

SusanR: Thanks Bj

SusanR: How far are you along?

BjB: we just got started. Jena commented on the fact that she likes the writing component

KarenL: Welcome, Sue!

KarenL: I was just about to ask a question about Reader's Theatre.

SusanR: yes Karen

KarenL: Okay. I'm reading Aaron's information on reader's theatre. How detailed are the scripts and what grade can we begin to use reader's theatre?

BjB: I've done it with first grade

BjB . o O (you can use story/dialogue strips)

KarenL: Really? How detailed were the scripts?

SusanR: I have used Reader's Theatre in grades as low as grades 1 and 2

KarenL: Ooh, like sentence strips?

BjB Nods

SusanR: Would you like to look at a sample script.

DeniseRe: A 2nd grade class came into my 1st grade class to perform reader's theatre. It was very successful.

SusanR: Click on stop 6 Moira's Birthday

KarenL: Yes, I would. Okay.

SusanR: That's a good sample for early readers.

JenaS: Especially, since its a topic that most children can relate to. It seems that for early readers it would just be a matter of repetition and practice.

SusanR: Yes Denise, older classes can adapt fairy tales into Reader's Theatre scripts and present them to older students

KarenL: Okay, I see. The narrator can guide the action. I just visualize all this stage stuff. You know, like students stand here. . .or students are doing this. . .

BrandyH: For which grades would you use that script? I know it is a little long for my first graders.

KarenL: I can handle that.

SusanR: Grade 1 can use Rhymes ..Click on Stop #15

SusanR: RT does not require props, staging, costumes etc or very minimal use of

SusanR: Moira's Birthday would be for Grade 2

JenaS: I've known Kinder teachers to do a rhyme a week, as well.

SusanR: Yes, Jena.. When I taught grade one i used rhymes frequently...

KarenL: The rhymes were cute!

KarenL: I was saying the rhymes are cute. And I see that you need no props. . .

SusanR: Stop #10 has some good scripts in word format.. so you can modify the scripts

KarenL: Hmmm. . .a good starting point. Why reinvent the wheel?

ShalomG: #12 has many useful RT scripts. Thank you for the URL.

SusanR: wide selection of scripts

JenaS: This site will save us a great deal of time trying to search for reliable scripts.

BrandyH: I also enjoy the "how to" section

SusanR: These scripts can be a lifesaver. Students love performing for younger audiences.

DeniseRe: I like how the site also provides the basics about Reader's Theatre. It helps someone like me understand how to implement it.

JenaS: You could also create a mentoring program in which older students help the younger ones with a piece of Reader's Theatre.

ShalomG: What would you say is your biggest challenge, if any, in implementing RT to a class that's never experienced it before?

SusanR: Excellent idea, Jena Stop #14 Grade 2 and 3 students can create simple scripts from Aesop's Fables

SusanR: They take to them quite readily...

KarenL thinks Jena's idea is a good one.

SusanR: Boys, especially love The Legend of Slappy Hooper STOP #8

SusanR: It's a take on the wild western

JenaS: I can just see them having a ball with that one

SusanR: Add props like a cowboy hat, toy gun, neckerchief

SusanR: RT scripts are great for esl students and reluctant readers

JenaS: Its important to look for things that boys might be drawn to. They tend to think that Reader's Theatre is silly when they get older.

SusanR: they can figure into your balanced literacy programme

BrandyH: My sixth grade students loved it

KarenL: Would Anansi stories work well with boys?

DeniseRe: Integrating arts into other subjects makes it more interesting for students. At least that's how I've experienced it as I grew up.

ShalomG: And with the arts being cut out of many budgets, it's a way to keep some art in the classroom.

JenaS: Good idea Shalom!

BjB: good point, Shalom

JenaS: What Reader's Theatre did you do w/ your 6th graders Brandy?

KarenL: I think arts are so important. They should NEVER be cut.

BrandyH: Aesop's fables, it fit in with my unit on Greece

BrandyH: One of the best things to do for ELL's though is allow them to pick their parts and scripts ahead of time so they can have that additional practice

SusanR: I have about 3 minutes left here before they close the local library..

SusanR: So I have to login every 15 minutes...

BjB: thanks for making the extra effort to be here tonight, Sue!

SusanR: Thanks BJ.. Please wrap up ..they are shutting the lights on me.

BjB: we sure do appreciate it

BjB sends Sue out the door

SusanR: Thank you BJ... what would I do without you!!!

BjB: anyone have any questions about tonight's discussion?

JenaS: How can we use Reader's Theatre pertaining to back to school?

BjB: Sue leads the K-3 group again on Monday, August 25 (note the special date

SusanR: Stop #11 has an interesting assignment sheet which includes a rubric
BjB waits to see if anyone has any suggestions for Jena
KarenL: Ooh, how about one of the stories like When the Aardvarks Go to School? or Miss Malarkey doesn't live in room 10 or one of Rosemary Well's stories.
KarenL: I can't think of the titles, though for Rosemary.
JenaS: Thanks! Didn't even think about back to school stories. Good idea!
BjB: Max and Ruby play school
BjB . o O (by Rosemary Wells)
KarenL: Thank you, BJ. You always come through.:)
KarenL: Or the Kissing Hand
BjB: also Emily's first 100 days of school
KarenL: Though some students may not like to be kissed.
BjB: although we got a late start, I hope you all got some good resources and learned more about Readers Theater
JenaS: Thanks for the great ideas. I'll look for some of those from Aarons site
BrandyH: yes, thank you very much
BjB . o O (don't forget to come back on Aug. 25 for Sue's Back to School theme)
DeniseRe: Thanks. It was a great session.
JenaS: I'm very thankful to have this resource!
ShalomG: I really appreciate the helpful site and ideas. I learned a lot. Have a nice evening everyone.
KarenL: You, too Shalom.
BjB waves goodnight
KarenL: Goodbye, everyone!