

Read Aloud Stories - A Practical Approach to Address Pronunciation, Intonation, Vocabulary, and Grammar

Maryland TESOL 2010

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“Storytelling can be a nurturing way to remind children that spoken words are powerful, that listening is important, and that clear communication between people is an art.”

Heather Forest, “Storytelling in the Classroom,” www.storyarts.org

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Participants Goals in Order of Importance

- Highest Priority ↑
- Vocabulary
 - Idioms and Figurative Language
 - Cultural Awareness
 - Grammar
 - Suprasegmentals (stress and intonation)
- ↓ Lowest Priority
- Rate of Speech
 - Segmentals (consonants and vowels)

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Additional Goals

- Confidence
- Fluency
- Thought groups
- Critical thinking
- Organization of ideas
- Humor and community building
- Listening skills
- Social skills

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Read Aloud Stories

- Listening comprehension
- Cues for selected sounds
- Without cues
- Answer questions
- Paraphrase content
- Storytelling

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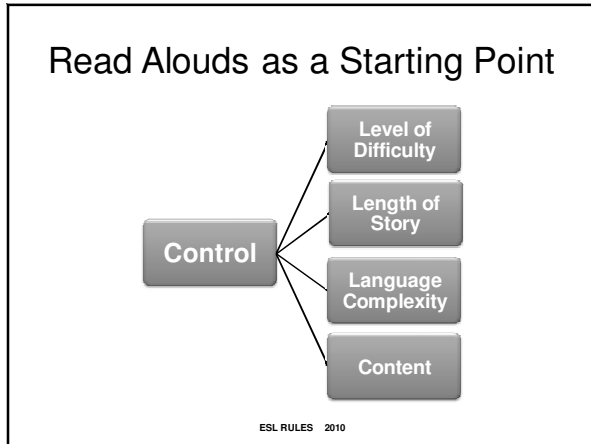
Read Alouds

- Restricted to text
- Less interactive
- Primary focus on text
- More organized, sequenced, and logical

Storytelling

- Not restricted to text
- More social engagement
- Primary focus on listener
- More spontaneous
- Easier to implement non-verbals

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Goals

Listener Comprehension <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Read story aloud• Ask questions (factual and inferential)• Discuss content and vocabulary• Set up group or paired activities	Pronunciation <p><i>Character name is a key word</i> <i>Phonetically (sound) loaded stories</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identify target sounds in words• Pronounce words• Read phrases and sentences• Read entire story• Answer questions• Retell story in own words
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Goals

Stress and Intonation <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identify patterns, e.g. proper nouns, compound nouns• Use appropriate syllable and sentence level stress• Implement contrastive stress• Ask Wh- or yes/no questions	Cultural Awareness <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discuss aspects of American culture• Work ethic• Customs and traditions• Values• Moral dilemmas
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Goals

Vocabulary and Figurative Language <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identify unfamiliar words and expressions• Find definitions• Provide synonyms/antonyms• Discuss idioms (transparent/opaque)	Rate of Speech <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Model appropriate rate• Identify punctuation• Practice appropriate phrasing (thought groups)
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Goals

Voice Projection and Loudness <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Teach proper vocal techniques• Teach vocal hygiene• Address sitting and standing postures• Record voice samples• Critique vocal parameters

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Goals

Transition from Story Reading to Storytelling <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Paraphrase story• Rehearse in student's words• Relate content/characters to own life experiences• Expand body language, gestures, eye contact, vocal variety• Present to audience	Features to Address <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Voice projection• Appropriate rate• Eye Contact• Posture• Vocal variety• Gestures• Pronunciation• Grammar• Vocabulary
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Benefits of Story Reading and Storytelling

Improved

- Confidence
- Voice projection
- Nonverbal communication
- Segmentals and suprasegmentals
- Reading comprehension
- Vocabulary development
- Interpersonal skills
- Cultural awareness

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Recommended Resources for Storytelling

Internet

- www.Youtube.com
- Dave's ESL Café
- www.Storycenter.org (children)
- www.SFGate.com
- www.NPR.com
- www.CNN.com
- www.storyarts.org

Books

- Greek Myths, Fairytales, and Legends
- Children and Young Adult Classics
- Zen Flesh, Zen Bones
- Cambridge Readers (Cambridge University Press)
- Grammar in Context
- RULES BY THE SOUND
- Compelling Conversations

Magazines and Newspapers

- News for You
- Easy English News

Others

- Movie Screenplays
- Personal Stories
- Family/Friend Interviews
- Comics

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"Storytelling allows me to keep the students engaged while teaching them content knowledge (e.g., history) while also exposing them to language. I use stories to frame lessons in grammar, vocabulary, reading, (and) retelling, so they practice speaking and writing...read alouds for reading...the ideas are LIMITLESS!"

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