

Introducing, Teaching, Rehearsing, and Performing
a Readers Theater Script in Eight EFL Classes
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CLASSES 1,2,3:

Teach the New Words and Phrases

Instruct the lessons in the textbook for about three classes. In these three classes, introduce the new vocabularies and the sentence patterns. In addition, talk about and discuss the story in the lesson.

The Readers Theater Script

The RT script to be used is based on the story in the lesson. The words used in the scripts are the ones students know. The new vocabularies and the sentence patterns are included in the script as well. This is done to ensure that the reading is at the students' instructional level.

CLASS 4
(15-20 min)

After the students have a better understanding of the new vocabularies and the sentence patterns, give the RT script to the students.

With the script in hands, demonstrate the RT script by reading aloud to the students. Ask all the students to follow along.

Then give the students about five minutes to read silently, underlying the difficult words.

Invite all the students to read the script together. This time, the students can try to pick up the difficult words.

Then, together, the students and the teacher can discuss the story, the plots, and the characters, etc..

CLASS 5
(15-20 min)

In the next class, invite the students to read the script together again. Then divide the students in groups of five and six.

The group leader takes the group to their own practice corner for more practicing. At this time, no roles are assigned. Encourage the students to try all the roles in the script. The teacher can move around the room to help.

CLASS 6
(15-20 min)

Give the students another 15-20 minutes to try out different roles within the group.

CLASS 7
(30-40 min)

In this class, give students time to discuss the roles they would like to perform. More practice time can be given, and if the time is limited, this is also the final rehearsal before the performance.

CLASS 8
(40 min)

All groups perform.

TIME NEEDED TO COMPLETE THE PROJECT:

For one simple RT script (based on the story in the curriculum), it takes about 1 month before students can perform it in front of other people. For other stories (such as some other extra readings), it may take up 2-4 months.