

1 Talking and Reading Aloud

Oral reading has traditionally been a way for a teacher to assess the word accuracy of a child's reading. This is not the function of these activities. When students have had an opportunity to read with a specific purpose in mind, select a passage that is of particular interest or importance, and rehearse their presentation, oral reading can strengthen their understanding.

We know that talk plays an important role in helping children develop ideas and learn concepts; the quality and range of their thinking is enhanced through dialogue. When students generate ideas with a partner or in a group, the quality of their own writing improves. Talk activities also help children socialize.

These activities will engage students in exploratory and collaborative talk, as well as the more formal kinds of talk used in speeches and presentations.

Writing and Giving a Speech • Radio Advertisement • Show-and-Tell Talk •
Songwriting and Singing • Book Talk • Oral Reading • Reading Emotions •
Chalk Talk

Writing and Giving a Speech

Imagine one of the characters from the story has been invited to speak at your school. It is your job to write the speech.

1. List three things from the story the character might talk about.

2. For each topic, write two or three sentences giving details.

Topic 1

Topic 2

Topic 3

3. Write a good opening sentence that will grab your listeners' attention.

4. Write a good ending to your speech.

5. Practise and give your speech in the role of the story character.

Radio Advertisement

Imagine the story is to be a radio play. Your job is to advertise the play on the radio.

1. Choose and practise a one-minute reading from the story to use in your ad.

2. Write an introduction.

3. Write a message for the end.

4. Record your commercial and leave it for others to listen to.

Show-and-Tell Talk

1. Think of an object that played an important part in the story.

Object: _____

2. Plan and rehearse a show-and-tell talk about this object.

Notes for Show-and-Tell

3. Either find the real object, or use a picture of the object.

4. Give your talk to a group of classmates.

Songwriting and Singing

Write a song about events in the story.

1. Choose a tune you know well.

Title of Song: _____

2. Use the space here to write new words to go with the tune.

3. Practise singing your song.

4. Perform your song for another group.

Idea: You could teach your song to the other groups and form a choir.

Book Talk

Give a book talk to advertise the story.

1. Write a script for a five-minute talk.

2. Practise a five-minute reading from the story add to your talk.

3. Record or videotape your talk.

4. Put your recording where others can share it.

Idea: Will you add sound effects or music?

Oral Reading

1. Choose a passage from the story that is particularly exciting, sad, funny, scary, or descriptive (one that will take you about 5–10 minutes to read aloud).

Story title _____

Author _____

Passage pages _____

2. Write the reasons why you chose this particular passage.

3. Rehearse an oral reading.

- How will you add expression to your reading?
- How will you make it interesting for your listeners?
- Will you need to use different voices for the characters?
- Would it be effective to play some background music?

4. Choose someone at school or at home to read your passage to.

5. After your reading, ask them to write how the passage made them feel.

Reading Emotions

1. Work together to list emotions you felt while reading the story.
2. Each person in the group choose one emotion and find a passage in the story that shows this emotion.

Emotions	Passages

3. Practise an oral reading of your passage.
4. Take turns reading your passages and discussing the emotions you felt.

Definition: An *emotion* is a feeling, such as anger, happiness, or jealousy.

Chalk Talk

Prepare a five-minute talk about the story.

1. Make a list of 5 words that are important to the story. The words could be names, places, clues, or feelings.
2. Plan to talk for one minute about why each word is important in the story.

Word	Importance
1. _____	
2. _____	
3. _____	
4. _____	
5. _____	

3. Print each word on the board or overhead projector as you give your talk.
4. Use your words to test the audience after your talk.