



Readers' Theater



Objective

The student will read with proper phrasing, intonation, and expression in connected text.



Materials

- ▶ Readers' Theater script

Optional: Choose stories with dialogue-rich text and develop scripts within students' instructional-independent reading level range or locate appropriate scripts on the Internet.



Activity

Students rehearse and read text using a Readers' Theater format.

1. Provide scripts for each student with his character highlighted in a specific color.
2. Taking turns, students read assigned parts of the script while providing assistance to one another with unknown words and/or phrasing, intonation, and expression.
3. Change characters and continue until every student has a turn reading each part.
4. Peer evaluation

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The Three Bears

Characters:
Narrator
Baby Bear
Momma Bear
Papa Bear
Goldilocks

Narrator: Once upon a time there were three bears who lived in a house in the woods.

Baby Bear: One of them was Baby Bear.

Momma Bear: One was Momma Bear.

Papa Bear: And the other was Papa Bear.

Narrator: They each had a bowl for their porridge.

Baby Bear: The Baby Bear had a little wee bowl.

Momma Bear: The Momma Bear had a medium-sized bowl.

Papa Bear: And the Papa Bear had a great big bowl.

Narrator: They each had a chair to sit in.

Baby Bear: The Baby Bear had a little wee chair.

Momma Bear: The Momma Bear had a medium-sized chair.

Papa Bear: And the Papa Bear had a great big chair.

Narrator: And they each had a bed to sleep in.

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Extensions and Adaptations

- ▶ Increase the reading difficulty of the scripts.
- ▶ Students write plays to use for Readers' Theater.

The Three Bears

Characters:

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Baby Bear
Momma Bear
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Narrator: Once upon a time there were three bears who lived in a house in the woods.

Baby Bear: One of them was Baby Bear.

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Narrator: They each had a chair to sit in.

Baby Bear: The Baby Bear had a little wee chair.

Momma Bear: The Momma Bear had a medium-sized chair.

Papa Bear: And the Papa Bear had a great big chair.

Narrator: And they each had a bed to sleep in.

Baby Bear: The Baby Bear had a little wee bed.

Momma Bear: The Momma Bear had a medium-sized bed

Papa Bear: And the Papa Bear had a great big bed.

Narrator: One morning, the three bears made porridge for breakfast, but it was too hot to eat! So they decided to go for a walk in the woods until it cooled.

While the three bears were walking, a little girl named Goldilocks came to their house. First, she looked in at the window, and then she peeked through the keyhole.

Goldilocks turned the handle of the door. The door was not locked, so Goldilocks opened the door and went right in.

There was the porridge on the table. It smelled very, very good! She went straight to it.

First, she tasted the porridge of the Papa Bear.

Goldilocks: Um, this is too hot.

Narrator: Then she tasted the porridge of the Momma Bear.

Goldilocks: Um, this is too cold.

Narrator: Then she tasted the porridge of the Baby Bear.

Goldilocks: Oh, this is just right. I like it so much I think I'll eat it all up!

Narrator: Then Goldilocks went into the living room to see what else she could find. There were the three chairs.

First, she sat down in the chair of the Papa Bear.

Goldilocks: Um, this is too hard.

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Narrator: Then she sat down in the chair of the Momma Bear.

Goldilocks: Um, this is too soft.

Narrator: Then she sat down in the chair of the Baby Bear.

Goldilocks: Oh, this is just right. I like it so much I think I'll rock and rock!

Narrator: BUT, the bottom of the chair fell out! Down she went onto the floor with a CRASH!

Goldilocks went into the bedroom where the three bears slept.

First, she lay upon the bed of the Papa Bear.

Goldilocks: Um, this bed is too high at the head for me.

Narrator: Then she lay upon the bed of the Momma Bear.

Goldilocks: Um, this bed is too high at the foot for me.

Narrator: Then she lay down upon the bed of the Baby Bear.

Goldilocks: Oh, this is just right! I like it so much I think I'll go to sleep!

Narrator: By this time, the three bears thought their porridge would be cool enough. So they came home for breakfast.

Goldilocks had left the spoons of the bears in their porridge bowls and they all noticed right away!

Papa Bear: Somebody has been eating my porridge!

Baby Bear: Somebody has been eating my porridge and it's all gone!

Narrator: Goldilocks had left the chair cushions a mess.

Papa Bear: Somebody has been sitting in my chair!

Momma Bear: Somebody has been sitting in my chair!

Baby Bear: Somebody has been sitting in my chair and it is broken!

Narrator: The three bears went into the bedroom.

Goldilocks had left all of the bed pillows out of place.

Papa Bear: Somebody has been lying in my bed!

Momma Bear: Somebody has been lying in my bed!

Baby Bear: Somebody has been lying in my bed and here she is!

Narrator: All three bears let out a long yell.

All Three Bears: Aaaaahhhhhh!

Narrator: This woke Goldilocks up. The three bears were all staring at her.

Goldilocks was so frightened that she jumped out of bed and ran away as fast as she could and never came back!