

Alliance Theatre

Teaching Artist
Ebony Tucker

Tell me a Story! Strategies for a Read Aloud

A Color of His own by Leo Lionni

Ages 0-2

Storytellers use the same tools that actors use.

Tool Box: Body, Voice and Imagination

Body

1. When can you make eye contact with your audience? Why?
2. Where do you sit? How close do you sit to your students? How close are they to one another?
3. Actions: What gestures or expressions can you make? Can some be imitated? Ask your audience, "Show me how..."
4. How and when should you invite participation from the audience?

Voice

1. Power- What words should you emphasize? Articulate and Enunciate.
2. Passion-What feeling do you allow to motivate how you say the words? (pitch and range)
3. Pace- How fast or slow do you read some words or sentences versus another? Pause when necessary. (tempo)

Imagination

1. Be creative. What props, puppets or music could you use to engage the audiences senses?
2. Is it necessary and could you skip or summarize pages to keep focus?
3. While reading story, ask questions and point out pictures to engage and stimulate.

Parent and guardian involvement are also a great key to storytelling. It keeps children focused and gives an opportunity for engagement and connection between the child and grown up. Share with parents the titles of books that will be read to the child.

How to select the perfect Read Aloud

1. Know your students, but also know your Authors and Illustrators
 - A. Does the story hold the potential to excite, move and engage the audience?
 - B. Does it connect to your curriculum- Social studies, science, math, language arts
 - C. What book format should you use:
 - a. Toy books (better with individuals) and board books (for babies and toddlers)
 - b. Wordless picture books
 - c. Picture books

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- d. Concept books- a book that explicates a general idea or concept by presenting many specific examples of it (colors, shapes, numbers, counting and the alphabet)
2. Know the importance of timing
 - A. Make it occur daily at a specific time and children will anticipate the moment.
 - B. Designate a specific area for books of the week and an area for reading.

Resources

Giorgis, Cyndi, and Joan I. Glazer. *Literature for Young Children: Supporting Emergent Literacy, Ages 0-8*. Boston, MA: Pearson, 2013. Print.

Laminack, Lester L. *Unwrapping the Read Aloud: Making Every Read Aloud Intentional and Instructional*. New York: Scholastic, 2009. Print.