

## Fluency Activity: Reading with Characters!

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### a. Introduction

- Fluency, as defined by Reading Rockets, is the ability to read with speed, accuracy, and proper expression. For children, learning to read with fluency is critical for them to make the transition from learning to read to reading to learn whether this is aloud or silently. When reading aloud, fluent readers read at a smooth pace, with minimal errors, and with expression where punctuation marks are present. While there are many ways to help students foster their fluency skills, the best way to grow in fluency is by having students read. Hence, reader's theatre is one of the best interactive ways to help all students grow their fluency skills.

### b. Body

- Reader's theater is a strategy that combines reading practice and performing. The goal is to enhance students' reading skills and confidence by having them practice reading with a purpose. Reader's theater gives students a real reason to read aloud.
- To begin, explain to students the activity they will be doing. Reader's theatre is a way for students to practice reading fluently while acting out their role in the story. For this activity, students will be reading *The Gingerbread Man*. There are 8 copies of the script – a master plus 7 more which have the individual part highlighted. This means, students should be placed in groups of 8, because one will have the role of the narrator. While students are reading scripts, work on expression and fluency as well as good pacing and pronunciation. Explain that

when reading for an audience, students must read more slowly than they do in their heads. If they read too quickly or mumble the audience cannot follow the story. Even if students are not on the same reading level, it might be a good idea to still place these students in the same group because it allows fluent readers to model good reading habits.

c. Conclusion

- Child learn by experiencing their world using their five senses. Since young students need an environment where they learn through playing, Reader's theatre is a great way to intertwine learning and playing. Kinesthetic learning activities not only allows children to connect concrete concepts to action, but also excites students about learning.

d. References

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