



## What is a Reader's Theater and How Can I Use One?

A Reader's Theater is a way of telling a story through many voices. You can consider it a play based on a book. There is usually a variety of characters as well as a narrator.

### Getting Started:

- The adult Group Leader reads the script, or part of the script aloud to the group
- The group discusses the meaning of the story and the contributions of each character
- The adult Group Leader assigns roles with the rest of the group

The readers should practice reading their parts aloud several times on their own or in pairs. Repeated practice will make voices sing! It will help everyone sound smooth and clear like water running downstream instead of rough and choppy like water crashing into rocks.

The readers should think about the specific characters they are playing and try to make their voices sound like the characters. They will need to consider what the character is feeling over the course of the story.

Sometimes scripts will use all CAPS or **bold** to show emphasis on those words. Readers should think about why those words are emphasized and how they should be read differently from the rest. Sometimes scripts use *italics* for emphasis (*but italicized words in parentheses are reserved for special directions to the readers and are not to be read aloud*).

Narrators have a special job. Their voices need to sound especially strong and clear because they act as the glue of the play. Narrators help tie all of the characters together and help the audience understand how the story is moving along.

We hope you enjoy the sample scripts we have made for LitWorld's World Read Aloud Day 2010 and that you are inspired to make your own scripts from your favorite books as well!