



How to Teach Children in UKS2 to Prepare Poems and Plays to Read Aloud and Perform

"In key stage 2, pupils should maintain positive attitudes to reading and an understanding of what they read by: preparing poems and plays to read aloud and to perform, showing understanding through intonation, tone and volume so that the meaning is clear to an audience."

National curriculum statement

In upper key stage 2, children should develop strategies for reading aloud and performing plays effectively.

⊗ Key Vocabulary

intonation, volume, tone, pace, perform, stage directions, verse, audience

Common Misconceptions and Errors

Although not an error, some children may be reluctant to perform in front of others. Build up their confidence by asking them to read aloud to a trusted friend or adult and never force them to perform before they are ready.

Bringing English to Life

End of term performances can be a great focal point for your performances.

Example Questions to Develop Understanding

- ⊗ • What was good about that performance?
- How could we improve that performance?
- What makes a good reader when speaking out loud?

Teaching and Learning Points:

- Use prominent events, such as assemblies or end of term showcases, to give children an audience to perform to.
- Regularly model reading poems and plays aloud to your children. Use intonation so that your voice rises and falls according to what you are reading, vary your volume and pace to match the events of the text.
- Discuss with your children what makes a good reader when speaking out loud.

- Use video clips of authors reading their poems or plays aloud so children can hear how they should be performed.
- Allow children to record themselves to analyse their performances.
- Analyse texts as a whole group to ensure children have a good understanding of the text before they begin performing. Use annotations to record any information that could be helpful when reading aloud.
- Children may start by reading aloud in pairs, perhaps alternating a sentence at a time.
- You could all read together as a class, or ask everybody to read one line each, perhaps standing up as they do so. You could organise a class into teams, and ask each team to read a verse aloud. Alternatively, each team could have a different poem and compete with the other teams to perform it effectively.
- If performing a play, children could be given a role and follow the stage directions when performing.
- Create a supportive environment so that children feel confident to perform in front of others.



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