

# Readers' Theatre

Readers' Theatre is designed to use the story elements and language from a piece of literature to create a skit. The readers may hold the script, read and do minimal actions. Minimal props, if any, are used.

To write the script as a group, assign each group member a character. Start at the beginning and rewrite the story using only dialogue by those characters. Some group members may need to read for more than one character (or a character may need to be split up between two members). It is important to copy the wonderful language used by the author as much as possible, but also to make the skit unique to the people who are rewriting. The groups may add humor, body language and expression, and personalize the rewriting.

Usually when you present a readers' theatre, the group members stand in a row in front of the audience. Even though everyone is reading a script, it is important to practice. As you practice, you may add more personality and interest to your reading.

Your assignment is to rewrite this story and practice reading. While you are writing and practicing, keep in mind that you want to communicate the theme clearly to your audience--You are unique! You may think of supplementary ways to communicate that theme to your audience. Be creative.

Use the following guidelines for quality work:

## **Voice and Clarity:**

The writing and performance should be clear and easy to understand. The unique voice of each character should be heard. Audiences will understand your point and hear your voices at all times.

## **Character Development**

Use your tone, expression, and movement to portray the uniqueness of the characters.

## **Originality**

The skit must be based on the story but add creativity and personality. You can also express the meaning and tone of the story through your actions.

## **Over-all Presentation**

All the story elements must be included and all students must participate to the best of their ability. Demonstrate enthusiasm for the project through all phases.

## **Cooperative Teamwork**

Make decisions as a team and work together efficiently and cooperatively. Solve problems without anger. Respect the ideas, interests and talents of everyone on the team, as well as the audience. Be sensitive to who is in your audience. For example, do not use difficult vocabulary for young audiences. Never use language that is disrespectful to anyone.

