

Readers' Theater Script Box – Grades 5-6

Designed to meet these objectives:

Language

- Students will build reading fluency and comprehension through repeated readings.
- Students will read aloud with proper expression, intonation, and pacing.
- Students will present dramatic interpretations of plays.

Our lively scripts are designed to help students develop reading fluency in a fun, entertaining way! Your box includes eight different scripts, each with four characters. We've provided four copies of each script, each with a different character's lines highlighted in yellow, so it's easy for students to keep track of their lines as they read.

You'll find many uses for your Readers' Theater scripts as you integrate them throughout your curriculum. As students read and practice each script, they will build oral fluency, reading skills, and comprehension—all while developing self-confidence, teamwork skills, and an appreciation for dramatic arts. Plus, the scripts allow students to get a taste of a traditional theater production—without having to memorize lines, design a set, or wear costumes.

What's Included

- 32 scripts (4 each of 8 different scripts)
- 8 dividers & a storage folder
- Reproducible assessment rubric on back

Using Your Scripts

- **Small-Group Instruction:** Give each of four students a copy of the same script, assigning a part to each student. Ask students to practice reading the scripts with you so that you can help pronounce any difficult words. Allow students to practice the scripts during independent work time. Then, invite the group to perform the script in front of the class on another day. Note that students should not memorize the scripts. Encourage them to use the scripts for oral reading practice, even when performing in front of the class. You may want to rotate the scripts to different groups so that everyone has a chance to perform each script. This way, you can integrate the contents of each script into whole-group instruction in other subject areas.
- **Centers:** Put four copies of one script at a center for students to practice in small groups or independently.
- **Extension Activity:** Invite students to add lines to an existing script and prepare props and sets for each "production." Students may also wear costumes if you have the resources available. You may wish to appoint more accelerated readers as "directors" who can help expand existing dialogue and manage rehearsals. Plan a day when students can perform their scripts for other classrooms or for parents.

Meeting Individual Needs

Note that the lines in each script are similar in terms of difficulty, but some vary in frequency and length. Students of all abilities can rotate character roles and try different lines in each script. However, some students—such as struggling readers and students learning English—might need additional assistance.

To help these students, you can pair stronger readers with struggling students and learners of English, and let them read one character's lines together. The partner reinforcement will allow all students to participate fully in the activity, while helping less advanced students build confidence in their reading abilities.

(continued on back)

Contents

- **The Explorers Show:** Three famous explorers share tales of their many exploits on a talk show. *Cross-curriculum subject area: social studies (history and early explorers)*
- **On the Oregon Trail:** A family on the Oregon Trail discusses their journey westward. *Cross-curriculum subject area: social studies (history and westward expansion)*
- **Pyramids, Pyramids, Everywhere!:** An archeologist tells children about pyramids around the globe. *Cross-curriculum subject area: social studies (history and geography)*
- **A Scorching Search:** Ace Goodman, a space hero, searches for the president, who has been kidnapped. *Cross-curriculum subject area: science (earth science and the solar system)*
- **Vince Wakes Up:** A student cheats on a math contest and wins, but turns over a new leaf after a bad dream. *Cross-curriculum subject area: social studies (character education)*
- **Pollution Solution:** The Green Guardian, a superhero, teaches three children how to fight pollution. *Cross-curriculum subject areas: science (environmental science and recycling) and social studies (character education)*
- **Math Around Town:** Four children search the town for ways that math is used in the real world. *Cross-curriculum subject area: math*
- **Paul Revere: The Real Story:** A TV show called "Real History" delves into the true story behind Paul Revere's midnight ride. *Cross-curriculum subject area: social studies (history and the American Revolution)*

Readers' Theater Assessment Rubric

Date	Title of Script & Character		Name of Reader	
SKILL	A True Star!	Strong Performance	Great Potential	Please Rehearse
Student uses a clear and confident voice so that all audience members can hear				
Student speaks with expression, showing appropriate feeling and emotion				
Student uses appropriate phrasing and pacing to achieve desired meaning				
Student uses gestures, body language, and facial expressions to bring the character alive				
Student listens to other characters and reads lines at appropriate times				
Other Comments:				