

Direct Experience Approach

Description: Directly involving the student in readers theater will increase students' interest level and make reading fun and enjoyable. The students are actively involved in reading. It also will help teach students to read with expression and to use punctuation for reading cues.

Targeted Grade Level: 2nd – 5th

Major Focus: Reading comprehension, Fluency, and Expressive reading

Text to be used: Folk tale of Stone Soup

Procedures:

1. Begin by telling the students they will be reading a folktale about Stone Soup. In a teacher led instruction, explain how a folktale is a story passed down through many generations.
2. Give each student a copy of stone soup. Let the class predict what they think the story will be about.
3. Put the class into groups depending on the number of students there is in the class. Have groups of children practice reading by rereading assigned parts. Include a narrator who reads everything but the dialogue.
4. After students have become fluent with their part, have them begin reading with expression. Encourage students to read the lines with a kind of expression they think the character would use. Give them time to practice reading their lines before they read as a group.
5. After students feel they have mastered their part, the teacher could supply students with costumes of the character which they are playing and have a play of Stone Soup.
6. This approach to reading could be done with many readers theatre. The teacher could also have the students exchange their character so they all have a chance to play different parts.