Here are my five steps to a great read aloud.



by Jill Eggleton

1. Choose a great text—a book, poem, or article that will quickly grab students' attention and spark their curiosity and imagination.

2. Engage listeners with a brief introduction of the text. Build intrigue about the topic, characters, or events, but don't give away the ending!

3. Enhance the reading by changing your voice for different characters and by adjusting your volume, speed, and tone of voice to fit the events or content of the text.

4. Enjoy the story. Read with enjoyment, modeling what good readers do as they read. Stop briefly to ponder, predict, infer, and make connections. Ask questions sparingly, being mindful not to interfere with the flow and enjoyment of the read aloud.

5. Extend the experience by helping students discuss the text and make connections to their own lives, to other texts, or to the world around them. Ask questions and encourage students to ask questions of their own. If desired, encourage students to respond to the text orally, creatively, or in writing.

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