

Purposes for Reading Readers Theatre Script

Developed by Dr. Rosalind M. Flynn with Ms. Walker's Class
Piccowaxen Middle School Charles County, Maryland

1	Ugh! Here's a book my teacher's forcing me to read!	7	I read a book about Jackie Robinson called <i>Jackie and Me</i> .
2	I wish we could vote on a book we want to read.	9	And everyone knows you like baseball.
3	Like Emmet Smith's biography! [gesture]	7	Yeah, and I connected with lots of things Jackie talked about.
4	slash and gash thrillers [sound effect] [gesture]	10	So that's connecting in a personal way.
5	Edgar Allen Poe poetry	All	Shibby!
6	<i>One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish!</i>	11	Yeah, I know what you mean. I read <i>Fat Chance</i> .
All	[sound effect]	All	Sounds weird.
7	So why can't we just choose our own books?	11	It's about a girl who thinks she's fat so she throws up after she eats.
8	Or not read at all? [sound effect]	All	Ewww!
9	We have to read for literary experience.	11	The sad part is I know someone who really does that.
All	Why?	All	[sound effect]
10	Our teachers make us.	12	We need to change the subject.
11	The Board of Education says so.		This is too depressing.
12	It will expand our vocabulary.	13	Does anyone ever predict when they're reading?
13	We can move to a higher level of thinking.	All	No. What's the purpose?
14	Yeah, yeah, yeah...my teacher is always telling us the purposes for reading. [sound effect]	13	Oh, but it's fun
15	Right—in Language Arts, we read <i>Rip Van Winkle</i> for	14	Yeah, it's like guessing and then seeing if your guess is correct.
All	Literary experience. [gesture]	15	I predict because I like to try to guess the ending of stories. It's like a game.
16	Whad'ja think?	All	Sho-ya-right.
1	It was so-so.	16	Sometimes I predict, but only when I feel like it.
2	I didn't like it! The words were too big and boring!	9	Me, too.
10	I thought the pictures were cool.	10	You're a nerd.
3	Okay, but sometimes if you use strategies, it helps you with your reading.	9	Back to you.
All	Oh yeah, like what? [gesture]	4	Stop you two. You sound like kindergarteners!
7	Well, like making personal connections. [sound effect—groan]	10	Oh yeah, like you're soooooo mature!
8	Give an example.	All	Okay, enough's enough.

9	Does anyone ever visualize when they read?	10	Are we almost done with these purposes for reading?
All	Uhhhhh...?	9	What about summarizing? [sound effect]
9	Make mental pictures of what you're reading?	11	Ugh! The worst part is when you have to summarize each paragraph! [sound effect]
4	Oh you mean like picturing what Rip Van Winkle was like when he passed out from the gin?	12	Yuck! I hate that!
10	I can do that. [sound effect]	13	It's stupid and way too much work!
5	I always have a mental image of what happens in a story.	9	True, but sometimes when we summarize, it makes it easier to follow the story.
1	That makes it easier to understand.	14	That and some students lose their place.... [sound effects like "What?" "Where are we?" etc....]
2	What makes reading difficult for me is when I disagree with a character's actions.	15	Or fall asleep. [sound effect] [gesture]
All	[sound effects—such as "yeah," me, too" ...etc.] [gesture]	9	I wonder who that could be!
3	Sometimes characters act so stupid!	10	Actually, this has been fun after all.
4	I want to ask them why they're doing that!	16	Let's not do it again too soon, though.
5	I doubt that could happen.	8	Is it time for lunch yet?
4	Hey, maybe instead, we could channel the characters about their actions and motives.	10	No really everybody—I think these strategies will help me with reading for literary experience.
All	[sound effect—Hmmmmmmm]	All	And we know you need lots of help! [sound effect] [gesture]
4	Yo, Rip! Home Skillet! Why'd ya get wasted on that gin? [Pause. Silence. No response.] [gesture—shrug]	10	Yeah. "Hooked on Phonics" didn't work for me!