



Student Tasks:

- Read and annotate the text
- Move to small groups
- Play with text as an ensemble

Online ThinkCERCA Resources

- Reading selection

Choral/Dramatic Reading

Reading comprehension and analysis through performance

Suggested Time: 15 minutes

Rationale/Research Base

Choral Reading or Dramatic Performance is a performance-based strategy for reading comprehension and analysis that encourages participants to perform multiple close readings to embody characters, emotions, key moments, and themes from the text, bringing them to life through physical expression and voice for an audience.

Optimal Application Notes

Choose a literary or informational text that contains a key turning point or pivotal moment worth exploring. It could be a quote, a scene from a play, a poem, a passage from a book, an essay, or even a news article.

Before:

- Provide students with copies of a very brief text.
- Designate a performance space/stage.

During:

- Students read the passage together out loud.
- Ask students to circle key phrases and words and to annotate the passage, noting key ideas, emotions, themes, and issues.
- Students “play” with the text in pairs, choosing what they see as the key moment or turning point in the text and vocalize it.
- Students create a performance that uses an individual voice, a pair of voices, and 3 or more voices.
- Allow time for participants to rehearse their performance.
- Encourage them to experiment with different tones, volumes, and paces.
- Have each group share their performance.

After:

- Wrap up the exercise by summarizing key insights, themes, or emotions that emerged from the tableaux. Discuss how this exercise enhanced participants' understanding of the text and theme.

Scaffolds & Supports:

- Excerpt text and paraphrase it with students. Ask basic comprehension questions to ensure students understand the literal level of the text. Translations may also be used to support comprehension.
- Review annotations and ask students to explain their thinking.