



Why do students need Reader's Theatre when they already have play scripts?

*Speak Out Reader's Theatre (S.O.R.T) scripts are more than play scripts!*

**It's all about reading fluency not drama (oral reading not performing)**

Play scripts are more suited for drama than reading which is what Reader's Theatre is all about; **building fluency in reading**. Because there are usually no props, costumes or acting in Reader's Theatre (it's a bit like a radio play) the voice must convey interest and meaning. With plays the emphasis usually goes off the reading as students concentrate on who will wear what, move where and how and when etc. Indeed the physical script usually gets in the way so lines are memorised. **S.O.R.T scripts are written specifically for Reader's Theatre** without stage directions. A live audience isn't even necessary ... S.O.R.T scripts can be recorded for audiences to enjoy at any time and at any place.

*Costumes and props are optional for our Speak Out competition 2023.*

**Multi-levelled parts in every script mean everyone's catered for**

The parts in each S.O.R.T script are at different levels (detailed in the Teacher's Guide) to allow for multi-levelled/heterogeneous grouping so students learn with and from each other (poorer readers model off better readers but the better readers are also challenged by the part they are reading). The best parts are usually the easiest but it's not obvious as all parts are important and of a similar length.

**Audio for support and modelling**

The audio component (provided for 6 of the 8 scripts as a model for students so they can make their own recordings of the other two scripts) supports students who need it. This is especially beneficial to students learning English and struggling readers.

**Writing Activities**

Activities are provided to guide students' response to reading. Guidance is also provided to students by award-winning authors on how to write their own scripts (which they can then present!).

**Multi-purposeful**

S.O.R.T is suited for use by one or more small groups independently, as Shared Reading or as **Guided Reading\*\*\*** (see separate sheet for suggestions)



## Why choose Speak Out Reader's Theatre?

### All sets comprise:

- Advice from award-winning authors to students writing their own scripts
- Scripts for demonstration to teach procedure and best practice
- Multi-levelled scripts (with parts for students reading on, above and below level) for mixed ability grouping which allows for students to learn with and from each other, all benefiting and all feeling worthy. All parts have a similar amount of text to read.
- Scripts have glossaries for vocabulary enrichment
- Wide range of topics ... fiction, legends and non-fiction with links to curriculum so students learn to read and read to learn
- Local content that is engaging, authentic and relevant
- Teacher's Guide written by educators who relate to other educators
- Editorial advice from respected educators
- Audio recording on CDs for six titles to provide model and support (supplied in Hardcopy sets only)
- Audio-supported eBooks for six titles to provide model and support (Digital sets only)
- Highly engaging scripts written by award winning authors, including Joy Cowley, to engage students
- Short scripts (700 – 1200 words) suited for repeated reading practice
- Home-School connection for maximum educational advantage
- Scaffolding English Language Learners so they learn with their peers in a supported environment
- Assessment sheets for fluency so students and teachers can give feedback, feed-forward and assess progress
- Blackline masters for extension and enrichment activities
- Research evidence to validate the procedure
- Four levels\*:
  - Set 3 (Orange) for Year 3 students (7 – 8 yr olds)
  - Set 4 (Yellow) for Year 4 students (8 – 9 yr olds)
  - Set 5 (Green) for Year 5 students (9 – 10 yr olds)
  - Set 6 (Blue) for Year 6 students (10 – 11 yr olds)

\*These levels are an indication only. All scripts are of interest to and applicable to a wide range of ages and stages.



## Differences between Speak Out sets:

Four levels\*: Set 3 (Orange) for Year 3 students (7 – 8 yr olds)  
Set 4 (Yellow) for Year 4 students (8 – 9 yr olds)  
Set 5 (Green) for Year 5 students (9 – 10 yr olds)  
Set 6 (Blue) for Year 6 students (10 – 11 yr olds)

\* These levels are an indication only. All scripts are of interest to and applicable to a wide range of ages and stages.

\*\* All sets contain scripts with parts for students who are reading below, on and above average levels i.e. parts that are very easy (VE), easy (E), on level (OL), challenging (C) and very challenging (VC).

### Demonstration Scripts:

With enough parts to cater for practice by students in groups ranging in number from small to large (whole class).

Set 3: “Mrs McNally Had a Class” by Meryl-Lynn Pluck

Set 4: “Meet the Gurgles” by Joy Cowley

Set 5: “Pele and the Sled Race” by Whena Owen

Set 6: “Hunters of the Ice Age” by Bill O’Brien

### Writing Advice:

Set 3: “The Sausage that Ate People”

Set 4: “Anybody Listening?”

Set 5: “Time Travellers”

Set 6: “First Prize at the Science Fair”

Set	Award Winning Author	Fiction	Nonfiction	Adapted Text	Original Text
3	Joy Cowley	✓		✓	
4	Joy Cowley	✓			✓
5	Don Long		✓	✓	
6	Don Long		✓		✓

[www.speakoutreaderstheatre.co.nz](http://www.speakoutreaderstheatre.co.nz)

[info@rainbowreading.org.nz](mailto:info@rainbowreading.org.nz)



## Using Speak Out Reader's Theatre for Guided Reading

For Guided Reading it is generally accepted that students should read text at their Instructional Reading Level (around 90 – 95% accuracy). Such reading engages the students in challenging, but manageable text.

Traditionally, unless using a Shared Reading approach, teachers have had to struggle with finding different books to accommodate the ability levels of a diverse range of students. With Speak Out Reader's Theatre teachers can use a Guided Reading approach with groups of mixed ability.

With Speak Out Reader's Theatre students who can't yet decode text at an age appropriate level can still enjoy, relate to and learn from the same text their peers are reading. They will be reading text at an appropriate level and will also be supported (and modelled to) by their peers and the audio recording provided to access more challenging text. With Speak Out Reader's Theatre students can think, discuss and comprehend text at age-appropriate levels.

Speak Out Reader's Theatre provides teachers with the tools to cater for diversity by using an **inclusive** approach when implementing Guided Reading.

Using Speak Out Reader's Theatre for Guided Reading makes good sense:

- small group practice
- text is appropriate for everyone in a particular group to facilitate success
- resource is non-threatening, authentic and purposeful to ensure enjoyment
- discussion takes place before, during and after reading to enhance each student's understanding of what they are reading
- teacher provides sensitive support for students to "talk, read, and think their way purposefully through" the text. (Reading for Life, 1997, p.80)
- social interaction & dialogue used to enrich reading & learning experience
- SORT offers an extra genre to expand the range and variety of texts read
- script reading is integrative; combining the components of reading and encouraging cross-checking and ultimately independence
- ideal structure for students to present and discuss questions about scripts

**Speak Out Reader's Theatre is more than a "nice-to-have" resource.**

**Speak Out Reader's Theatre is a "must-have" resource.**