

STRATEGY GUIDE

Choral Reading



Grades K - 5

Author **Lila Ubert Carrick, Ed.D.**
Jersey City, New Jersey

Publisher 

Strategy Guide Series Performing Literature to Promote Fluency and Comprehension

[See All Strategy Guides in this series ▶](#)

ABOUT THIS STRATEGY GUIDE

Choral reading broadens experiences with different genres. You can choose materials that teach content area subject matter or reading content such as phonics, vocabulary, and rhyme. Through repeated reading of the text, the student becomes a more fluent reader, which allows for increased content comprehension.

RESEARCH BASIS

Support for choral reading is found in several reading theories and educational paradigms, including Dowhower (1987), Rosenblatt (1978), Samuels (1979), and Schreiber (1980). Through repeated readings of the text, the reader increases sight word vocabulary and ability to decode words quickly and accurately. This fluent reading enables the reader to spend less time on decoding and have greater comprehension of the text (Pikulski & Chard, 2005).

Dowhower, S.L. (1987). Effects of repeated reading on second-grade transitional readers' fluency and comprehension. *Reading Research Quarterly*, 22(4), 389-406.

Pikulski, J.J., & Chard, D.J. (2005). *Fluency: Bridge between decoding and reading comprehension*. *The Reading Teacher*, 58(6), 510-519.

Rosenblatt, L. (1978). *The reader, the text, the poem: The transactional theory of the literary work*. Carbondale: Southern Illinois University Press.

Samuels, S.J. (1979). The method of repeated readings. *The Reading Teacher*, 32(4), 403-408.

Schreiber, P.A. (1980). On the acquisition of reading fluency. *Journal of Reading*, 12(3), 177-186.

STRATEGY IN PRACTICE

[back to top](#)

■ Suggestions for selecting material

- Choose material that the student can read—poems, song lyrics or picture books.
- Look for pieces that will put the student's imagination to work.
- Begin with simpler pieces until students are familiar with the procedure.
- Select a poem, song lyric, or text from a book that contains words that will come alive when read aloud. For example, use material that contains descriptive words, vivid verbs, onomatopoeia, alliteration, and/or rhyming words. Or, choose material that contains a mood that is enhanced through oral interpretation or dialogue.
- Use poems to teach, enrich, or reinforce content across the curriculum. Poems can be used to teach phonics, word families, and vocabulary as well as math, science, and social studies content.

■ Procedure

- Introduce the selection to the students by reading it aloud while they follow along silently.
- Have everyone read through the selection aloud in unison at least one time.
- Ask different groups of students to take turns reading lines, stanzas, or paragraphs of the poem together.
- Group readers into boys and girls, brown eyes and blue eyes, odd number birthdays and even number birthdays, or odd number birth month and even number birth month.

For example, in a given poem, say, “Boys read the first two lines and girls read the next two lines. If you have blue or green eyes read the next paragraph and if you have brown eyes read the following paragraph.” When the poem is reread, create different groups, thereby giving all students a chance to read.

RELATED RESOURCES

[back to top](#)

LESSON PLANS

Grades **K - 2** | Lesson Plan | Standard Lesson

[Improving Fluency through Group Literary Performance](#)

Students participate in shared reading, choral reading, and readers theater, using books by Bill Martin, Jr. Repeated readings and literary performances help students with their reading accuracy, expression, and rate.

Grades **3 - 5** | Lesson Plan | Standard Lesson

[Multipurpose Poetry: Introducing Science Concepts and Increasing Fluency](#)

Creepy crawlers, hoppers, and fliers are the focus of this lesson in which students chorally read poems about insects and use the Internet to locate facts about their assigned insects.

Grades **K - 2** | Lesson Plan | Standard Lesson

[The Big Green Monster Teaches Phonics in Reading and Writing](#)

A big green monster helps students build their reading fluency and word recognition skills through choral reading, literacy center activities, and writing stories.

STRATEGY GUIDES

Grades **K - 6** | Strategy Guide

[Using Paired Reading to Increase Fluency and Peer Cooperation](#)

In this strategy, students read aloud to each other, pairing more fluent readers with less fluent readers. This strategy can also be used to pair older students with younger students to create “reading buddies.”

© 2013 IRA/NCTE. All rights reserved.

Legal | International Reading Association | National Council of Teachers of English