

## HO-4 Mini-Lesson: Reading Aloud

We've all listened to people read aloud in a voice that sounds flat and boring. It's not much fun to hear.

Reading aloud is a skill that takes a lot of practice to do well.



Here are some tips for improving your oral reading:

1. Whenever possible, make sure you know the text really well. When you're sure about what's coming next, you have the confidence to look up once in a while and **make eye contact with your audience**. This makes them feel more involved. Practice looking up at certain places, so that your eyes know where to go back to on the page, so you don't lose your place.
2. Read with **expression**. If you're reading a passage of description, think about the mood the author is trying to communicate. Is the setting a spooky place or an exciting place? Try to express the mood with your voice. If you're reading dialogue, read as if you were acting the part in a play. How would the character talk? What emotion is the character feeling at that moment? How could you read the dialogue to show that emotion?
3. Don't read at the same pace all the time. Look for places where you might want to speed up a little, perhaps to suggest excitement or suspense. There may be places where it would be effective to slow down the pace a little, such as at a sad moment. **Changes in pace** should not be too extreme – a slight change can have a big impact.
4. Changing the **volume of your voice** is another effective technique, but you only want to do this if the text gives you a reason. Look for places in the dialogue where a louder or softer voice would make sense. Speaker tags can give you clues. If a speaker tag tells you that the character whispered, mumbled, or yelled, use the proper volume to communicate this.