

Basic Reading Tips

- 1 Read and have fun. It's ok to make mistakes.
- 2 If you don't know what a word is, look it up or ask someone.
- 3 Some words will mean different things than you might be used to. The "mad" in "Mad Hatter" does not mean "angry or upset". It means "crazy or nonsensical."
- 4 Take your time. If you have to read things a few times that's ok.
- 5 You do not need to read it all at once. Read a chapter or maybe just a page at a time.
- 6 It's ok for you to have your own meanings or interpretations of things. Lewis Carroll's books are filled with things that are meant to be confusing or not make sense. The book is silly. The idea is that you have fun with it!

Reading Out Loud

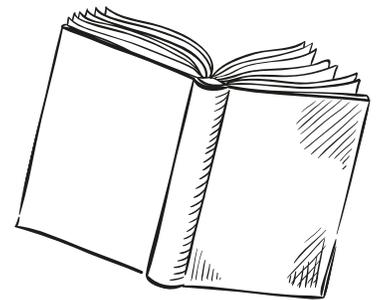
- 1 Reading out loud can be a good way to better understand the story, even if you are alone.
- 2 When reading out loud, try using different voices for different characters to make it more fun. You can also use sound effects.
- 3 Besides just different voices, try different speeds and tones of reading. Many people read faster in exciting parts and slower in calm parts. *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* often has instructions for how the characters are speaking embedded in the text, try to follow them.

Reading to an Audience

- 1 It's still just reading, whether by yourself or in front of people.
- 2 Know your audience and read to them. If you have younger children, do things to engage them and interact with them. Think about how you can make it fun for whomever you are reading too.
- 3 Use the material. *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* is one of the craziest and most unique stories ever written. There are poems, songs, rhymes, monologues, dialogues, and just about every style of writing known to Victorian England.
- 4 There is no right or wrong way to read. You can be very theatrical and crazy or very calm and consistent.

Tips from the Stark Reading Contest

Miriam Lutcher Stark recognized that reading was an essential part of education. She sponsored a contest that encouraged young people to read and communicate confidently. The Stark Reading Contest has continued every year since Miriam began it in 1904. Here are a few things that judges look for from Interpretive Reading Contestants that you might want to consider when reading aloud!



- Effectively distinguish the narrator and any other characters in the selection.
- Differentiate the scenes occurring in the selection by distinguishing times, locations, and changes in places and seasons as appropriate.
- Make appropriate use of physical skills (natural movements, gestures, expressions, eye contact) in delivery without acting; delivery should be free of excessive gestures or movements.
- Make appropriate use of vocal skills in delivery (i.e., dialect, volume, rate, pitch are believable).
- Delivery should be articulate, comprehensible and reflect proper pronunciation, enunciation and inflection.
- Display and maintain poise (natural posture, composure, confidence) during delivery.