

Expanding Comprehension Through Theater



Presented by: Trudy Freer & Cristina Cruz-Wiley

Objectives

- Develop an awareness of the importance of expanding comprehension through oral reading strategies
- Participate in oral language activity
- Create and present in small groups an original dialogue



WARM UP – 2 by 2 DIALOGUE

- **Person A:** Technician with your mobile provider
- **Person B:** A customer complaining about their cell phone service



- Discuss with your group what level of language proficiency was required
- What type of language function was being used? (informative, persuasive, etc.)
- Discuss vocabulary usage and level

Activity 1- Think-Pair-Share

- Think about a reading in the content area activity in which students in your classroom were engaged in meaningful conversations.
- Turn to your shoulder partner and describe the activity.
- Reflect with your partner: Could you have modified this activity to include the use of more academic vocabulary? How?



Research

- Read the prompts on the card provided.
- Explain it to your group. Listen and react to the other participants.



Purposes for meaningful dialogue:

- Talk to engage
- Talk to extend understanding
- Talk to explain or justify understanding
- Talk to express learning
- Talk to evaluate learning

Thinking About the Text

- Comprehension
- Expression



Turning a text into a conversation example

“Too Much of a Good Thing”

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pJqocQ02ZYU> (Math)
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iMESHgUSBC0> (Science)



Tips

- Pick the literature - interesting or has compelling content
- Identify critical academic vocabulary students need to learn
- Identify the characters
- Create meaningful scripts that students can transfer into classroom academic conversations

Tips (Cont...)

- Scaffold by developing a script with students
- Students go beyond reading to performing original scripts or by using familiar material and turning it into a script
- Include students of different language proficiency levels

Academic Dialogue for ELLs

Dialogue should be:

**Dialogue should not
be:**

Practice and Presentation

- Each group will select an article and generate a short reader's theatre script to present to the group.
- You will have 12 minutes for your group to design your dialogue.



References

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CONTACT INFORMATION

TRUDY FREER

tfreer@sbcglobal.net

(281) 859-2980

CRISTINA CRUZ-WILEY

cruzmc@stthom.edu

(281) 814-3263