



LANGUAGE ARTS

STUDENT BOOK

▶ **10th Grade | Unit 7**

SAMPLE

LANGUAGE ARTS 1007

Oral Reading and Drama

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Oral Reading and Drama

Introduction

In this LIFE·PAC® you will learn the value of reading aloud, the nature and role of oral reading, and the skills required for reading orally. You will learn how to use your voice properly, with correct phrasing, inflection, and eye contact. You will also learn how to select and prepare materials for presentation in speech contests and other public programs.

The second section of this LIFE·PAC contains information to help you better understand drama. You will learn more about the development of drama in Greece and Rome. You will learn the characteristics of comedy and tragedy as well as become acquainted with some of the great writers of these two dramatic forms. You will study the elements of drama and learn more about dramatic irony and allegory. The second section will help familiarize you with some of the terminology used in discussing drama, preparing you for the actual reading of a play.

The third section of this LIFE·PAC concerns interpretative reading of drama—the art of reading plays aloud. You will examine briefly the nature and the history of English drama, noting the characteristics distinguishing religious drama. You will read and evaluate *Everyman*, a classic Christian morality play.

Objectives

Read these objectives. The objectives tell you what you will be able to do when you have successfully completed this LIFE·PAC . When you have completed this LIFE·PAC, you should be able to:

1. Summarize the importance of effective oral reading.
2. Define the function of oral reading.
3. Explain the effective use of the voice.
4. Describe the effective use of the body in oral reading.
5. Explain the preparation needed for reading orally.
6. List the rules for cutting material to be read orally.
7. Trace the early development of Greek and Roman drama.
8. Explain the history and the nature of tragedy.
9. Explain the history and the nature of comedy.
10. Explain certain elements necessary to drama.
11. Define and use certain literary terms pertaining to drama.
12. Explain the role of an oral interpreter of drama.
13. Trace the development of early English drama.
14. Describe three forms of Christian drama: the miracle, mystery, and morality plays.
15. Summarize the characteristics of the morality plays.
16. Describe *Everyman* as a morality play and as an allegory.

1. READING ORALLY

Training in oral reading is an asset. A student who has learned to read well to an audience has been freed from self-consciousness and fear when he appears before a group of listeners. He can read with competence and confidence a verse of Scripture in Sunday school, a poem in class, or a newspaper article to an elderly person with failing eyesight.

This LIFE·PAC is designed to provide you with the composure, confidence, and skill necessary for effective oral reading.

In this section you will study the value, nature, and role of oral reading. You will learn more about the skills involved in reading orally. You will also learn to prepare your material carefully for reading orally.

Section Objectives

Review these objectives. When you have completed this section, you should be able to:

1. Summarize the importance of effective oral reading.
2. Define the function of oral reading.
3. Explain the effective use of the voice.
4. Describe the effective use of the body in oral reading.
5. Explain the preparation needed for reading orally.
6. List the rules for cutting material to be read orally.

Vocabulary

Study these words to enhance your learning success in this section.

enunciation

inflection

intonation

Note: All vocabulary words in this LIFE·PAC appear in **boldface** print the first time they are used. If you are unsure of the meaning when you are reading, study the definitions given in the glossary.

VALUE

Because the written word becomes most meaningful when it is spoken or read, its importance is most evident in this age of communication. Today, the spoken word is used everywhere: in mass communication, entertainment, education, government, and religion—guiding, enlightening, and enriching man’s life. Reading orally is a valuable form of spoken communication. Reading to others has value as social action. When one reads to inform, to instruct, to entertain, or to inspire another, he is engaged in a social situation. The oral reader enters into a shared experience with his listener and, to some extent, with the author of the material being shared. Reading aloud also increases one’s enjoyment of the content and heightens his appreciation for the sounds of the language of poetry and drama. As a social action, reading aloud can help the listener formulate answers to daily problems, it can capture his wandering attention, and above all it can give pleasure to those who cannot read for themselves.

In business. Oral communication emerged as a business with the development of mass communication. Countless jobs, unknown in the Twenties, are now available in the communications industries to qualified men and women. Because most broadcasters must read aloud from a manuscript, a teletype, TelePrompTer, or a cue card, the ability to read well has gained new significance. More is demanded of the oral reader for radio projection, however, because he has no opportunity to use body language or gestures to help him convey meaning. In visual productions much also depends upon the oral reader’s appearance and his stage presence. In any case, the aspiring career seeker in either medium should remember the advice given by Lowell Thomas, the narrator for the old *Movietone News* newsreels. When asked once how to read a radio script effectively, he replied, “Make it sound as if it were not being read.”



Persons desiring to pursue reporting or acting careers in the communication media attend special schools where they learn the art of oral reading. They struggle through exacting training sessions so that they can go on the air with confidence. Some of them may work in advertising, but many of these students become well-known news commentators and interviewers. They are competent as oral readers.

At home. Reading aloud at home is just as important as reading aloud in public. A person’s ability to read to his family can add joy and beauty to everyday living. The very act of laughing or weeping over a story with a loved one can enrich those moments. How precious, indeed, are the memories that often cluster around the reading of a child’s bedtime story! Reading to children about the spiritual giants of the Old Testament or sharing with them one of the parables of our Lord has even greater importance. It will enlarge their understanding of the Bible and fill their minds with images of unforgettable heroes and with words and the lessons that Jesus taught. Moreover, such reading will also bring family members closer together. Reading well, with excitement and sensitivity, can implant in young minds the value of books as nothing else can.



Complete the following activities.

1.1 List five ways oral communication is used every day.

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____
- d. _____
- e. _____

1.2 Explain the social value of oral reading.

1.3 Explain the place of oral reading in business.

1.4 Explain the importance of oral reading in the home.

NATURE

The nature of oral reading is practical, cohesive, and interpretive. Oral reading is practical because it provides a broad background for children, imparting information, providing mental images, and underlining principles that parents wish to instill in them. It is cohesive because it cements relationships between parents and children and between sisters and brothers and because it provides a common collection of memories that can be recalled at will. Oral reading is said to be interpretative. The **intonation** and **inflection** in the voice of the reader brings the writer's intention to artistic realization.

Practical. By nature, reading aloud is practical whether a mother is reading one of the Chronicles of Narnia tales to her child or whether a minister is reading the seventeenth chapter of John to his congregation. The printed page is vital to man's way of life. Sharing a delightful use of words or an interesting fact with a family member or a friend can add to the pleasure of both reader and listener.

Oral reading improves pronunciation. An oral reader must pronounce the words that he might skip over if he were reading silently. In all walks of life people are required to read reports in committee meetings or before governing boards; in such situations correct pronunciation and **enunciation** are of utmost

importance. To save embarrassment, one should carefully check anything that will be read and look up the pronunciation of all unfamiliar words. A person's ability to read aloud in a thoughtful, clearly understandable manner will bring personal satisfaction.

Cohesive. When people share an oral reading, their minds are brought into unison. All of them are listening; all are responding mentally to the message being projected. The reader must comprehend the author's meaning so that he can clearly express the thoughts of the writer to the audience. This comprehension requires conscientious effort to extract the essential meaning. For a minister of the Word of God, this searching period is imperative. He "breaks the bread" as a mother robin does for her little ones. He is proving Scripture with Scripture, categorizing it into known doctrines, and distilling from it principles to live by. This presentation helps bind a group together in fellowship around the Word.

Interpretative. Interpretative reading creates an illusion. For this reason the masters of interpretation make whatever they are doing seem fresh, new, and easy even though the audience knows they may have spent hours, days, or months in rehearsing. The interpretative reader attempts to express the full intent of the author.



Answer true or false.

- 1.5 _____ Reading, by nature, is not a very practical pursuit
- 1.6 _____ Oral reading is cohesive because it causes everyone within hearing to be thinking of the same thing.
- 1.7 _____ Interpretative reading means expressing the author's meaning by voice intonation and inflection.
- 1.8 _____ Reading aloud never improves one's pronunciation of words.
- 1.9 _____ Oral reading at home is never practical.



SELF TEST 1

Match these items. (each answer, 2 points).

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1.01 _____ descriptive prose</p> <p>1.02 _____ narrative prose</p> <p>1.03 _____ cutting</p> <p>1.04 _____ expository prose</p> <p>1.05 _____ gestures</p> <p>1.06 _____ cohesion</p> <p>1.07 _____ enunciation</p> <p>1.08 _____ eye-contact</p> <p>1.09 _____ voice-print</p> <p>1.10 _____ paraphrase</p> | <p>a. memorization</p> <p>b. sticking together</p> <p>c. physical motions</p> <p>d. graphic discourse that describes</p> <p>e. careful shortening of a reading</p> <p>f. beneath the conscious level, subconscious</p> <p>g. language that uses the senses</p> <p>h. prose that tells a story</p> <p>i. prose that explains or persuades</p> <p>j. clear articulation</p> <p>k. looking up at audience regularly</p> <p>l. summarizing passage in your own words</p> <p>m. poise, self-command</p> <p>n. like fingerprint, unique to its owner</p> |
|---|--|

Answer true or false (each answer, 1 point).

- 1.011** _____ Oral reading is not so important today as it was 100 years ago.
- 1.012** _____ Lowell Thomas said, "Make it sound as if it were not being read."
- 1.013** _____ One's ability to read aloud will have little effect on his business or profession.
- 1.014** _____ Reading aloud does not necessarily require one to understand what he is reading.
- 1.015** _____ Those who read aloud best make it look easy.
- 1.016** _____ One's voice is affected by his attitude toward himself.
- 1.017** _____ The resonators are the mouth, nose, and lips.
- 1.018** _____ The articulators are the tongue, teeth, palates, and lips.
- 1.019** _____ One inherits a strong or weak voice.



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