



Reader's Theater

Introduction

In the book "The Swamp Where Gator Hides," the reader is introduced to animals that live in or near a swamp in a cumulative story. In this activity, students perform a readers' theater as they read different parts of the story. Reader's theater is a wonderful way to enhance comprehension of the text and structure of the story.

Materials Needed

- ◆ A copy of the book
- ◆ Script for Reader's Theater
- ◆ Scenery (optional)

Key Concepts

- ◆ Each organism has different structures for different functions.
- ◆ All organisms have different needs.
- ◆ Behavior is influenced by internal cues (hunger) and external cues (change in environment.)

Procedure

1. Download the script for the Reader's Theater from the Dawn Publications web site.
Make ten or more copies.
2. Read the book, explaining how the beginning introduces the story and the ending concludes it.
3. Ask students who would like to participate in a Readers' Theater. Explain that there are ten different parts to read, including the part of a narrator.
4. Pass out ten scripts and assign parts.
5. Give students time to practice their parts using their own scripts. When everyone is comfortable with his/her part, hold up the book for the rest of the class to see the illustrations as the readers perform.

Nature Connections

- ◆ Students may want to do research about the animal they are portraying. Since there are only ten characters in the cast, the other students may want to research what makes up a swamp and draw the scenery as a background for the performers.

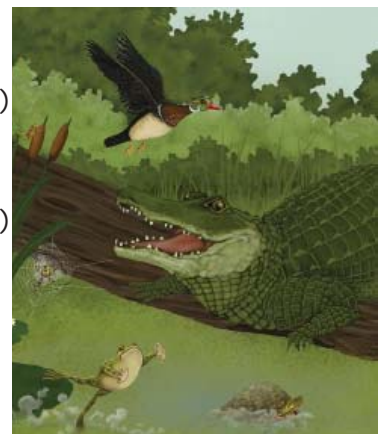
Additional Resources

Scripts and Tips for Reader's Theater by Aaron Shepard:

<http://www.aaronshp.com/rt/index.html>

www.lessonplanet.org
(keyword: readers theater)

www.readwritethink.org
(keyword: readers theater)



THE SWAMP WHERE GATOR HIDES
Readers' Theater

CAST OF CHARACTERS

NARRATOR: _____

DUCK: _____

TURTLE: _____

SNAKE: _____

FROG: _____

DEER: _____

EGRET: _____

VOLE: _____

BOBCAT: _____

SUNFISH: _____

The Script

Narrator: This is the algae that carpets the swamp where Gator hides.

Duck: This is the duck who paddles in ooze

Narrator: Under the algae that carpets the swamp where Gator hides.

Turtle: This is the turtle who takes a snooze

Duck: Ignoring the duck who paddles in ooze

Narrator: Under the algae that carpets the swamp where Gator hides.

Snake: This is the snake who slithers around

Turtle: Past the turtle taking a snooze

Duck: Ignoring the duck who paddles in ooze

Narrator: Under the algae that carpets the swamp where Gator hides.

Frog: This is the frog with a rumbling sound

Snake: Eyeing the snake who slithers around

Turtle: Past the turtle taking a snooze

Duck: Ignoring the duck who paddles in ooze

Narrator: Under the algae that carpets the swamp where Gator hides.

Deer: This is the deer who grazes nearby

Frog: The bullfrog with a rumbling sound

Snake: Eyeing the snake who slithers around

Turtle: Past the turtle taking a snooze

Duck: Ignoring the duck who paddles in ooze

Narrator: Under the algae that carpets the swamp where Gator hides.

Egret: This is the egret nesting up high

Deer: Who watches the deer grazing nearby

Frog: The bullfrog with a rumbling sound

Snake: Eyeing the snake who slithers around

Turtle: Past the turtle taking a snooze

Duck: Ignoring the duck who paddles in ooze

Narrator: Under the algae that carpets the swamp where Gator hides.

Vole: This is the vole who peeks from a hole

Egret: To see the egret nesting up high

Deer: Who watches the deer grazing nearby

Frog: The bullfrog with a rumbling sound

Snake: Eyeing the snake who slithers around

Turtle: Past the turtle taking a snooze

Duck: Ignoring the duck who paddles in ooze

Narrator: Under the algae that carpets the swamp where Gator hides.

Bobcat: This is the bobcat taking a stroll who stalks the vole

Vole: Who peeks from a hole

Egret: To see the egret nesting up high

Deer: Who watches the deer grazing nearby

Frog: The bullfrog with a rumbling sound

Snake: Eyeing the snake who slithers around

Turtle: Past the turtle taking a snooze

Duck: Ignoring the duck who paddles in ooze

Narrator: Under the algae that carpets the swamp where Gator hides.

Sunfish: This is the sunfish who scoots away

Narrator: When Gator comes out to catch his prey.

All: Who will he have for lunch today?

Bobcat: Is it the bobcat who took a stroll?

Vole: Or the vole who peeked from a hole?

Egret: Is it the egret nesting up high?

Deer: Or the deer grazing nearby?

Frog: Is it the frog with a rumbling sound?

Snake: Or the snake who slithers around?

Turtle: Is it the turtle taking a snooze?

Duck: Or the duck who paddles in ooze?

Narrator: Under the algae that carpets the swamp where Gator no longer hides.

All: S-N-A-P!!! *(Put hands together and all make a clapping sound at the same time.)*

--THE END--