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Important Facts about the Scripts included in *Fairy Tale Readers' Theater*

- 1. Entire Class Production:** Every fairy tale can become an “entire class production” when you use the “group readings” included in each script. The group readings are also excellent for shy children, English language learners, and struggling readers. Reading in a group can help these children feel more self-confident while increasing their language skills and fluency.
- 2. Small Group Readings:** Every fairy tale can become a “small group production” by simply eliminating the group readings. Make a single copy of the script and “white-out” the group reading lines. Then, copy the edited script for the remaining story characters. Eliminating the “group readings” will not alter or detract from the original story.
- 3. Specific Reading Levels:** Reading levels for all the story characters and group readings can be found in each of the fairy tales teacher's guides. Teachers can thereby assign character roles according to individual reading skills.

4. **Sound Effects Audio CD:** There are 8 to 15 sound effects for each fairy tale. The sound effects tracks are found on page 5. Easy-to-follow directions about when to play each sound effect can be found in each script. This is a fun task to assign to an individual student.
5. **Simple or Elaborate Productions:** Every fairy tale can become an elaborate production when you incorporate the ideas found under “Optional Costume & Set Suggestions” in each teacher’s guide. The productions can also remain simple when you use the easy-to-make reproducible props found on the pages following each script.

Reader’s Theater Teacher’s Guide

The concept of Reader’s Theater as well as the scripts, props, and other materials used in the classroom can become powerful tools that not only help children improve fluency and comprehension skills, but have also been found to enhance listening, writing, and social skills, and increase self-confidence.

Here are some tips to assist you in creating successful Readers’ Theater experiences in your classroom:

1. **Review the Traditional Tale:** Every script included in Fairy Tale Readers’ Theater is a traditional and well-loved tale. Before introducing the script, review the original fairy tale with your students. A list of literature resources is provided under “Review the Traditional Story” in each teacher’s guide.
2. **Teach New Vocabulary:** A list of the new and more difficult words are included in each teacher’s guide under “Teach New Vocabulary.” It is recommended that these words are taught and then reviewed before reading the script. The children need to be able to read and understand the meanings of the words. Write the new vocabulary words on large cards and add them to your word wall. Illustrate each new word.
3. **Highlight the Text:** The scripts were created in the font ITC Stone Informal, 14 point—an easy-to-read font for children. Have each student trace over each of their lines using a bright highlighter. This will help the reader’s stay on track.
4. **First Read-Through:** The first read-through should be as non-threatening as possible. The goal is to learn the words and read through the text. As the children become more comfortable with the text, you can begin to encourage them to read with more dramatic expressions. Talk about reading the text using “character voices,” such as cackling like a witch, or using a big, deep voice for a giant. This adds fun, a bit of drama, and increases fluency.
5. **Brainstorm Ideas for Scenery:** Costume suggestions and prop patterns are included. Have the children brainstorm ideas for scenery. Painting murals and drawing scenery on chalkboards with colored chalk is easy and can be effective. Children can be very creative and innovative.