

# Readers' Theatre Lesson Plan

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## Concept to Teach

This lesson helps students practice reading out loud. Using Readers' Theatre can increase reading and oral fluency in a creative and stress-free environment by using scripts provided on the Capstone website. This lesson will entice student to finish the book.

## Objectives

- The student will work in a team environment to perform in front of peers.
- Using a multimedia title, the student will build vocabulary while interacting with technology to comprehend the meaning of a book.
- The student will read with fluency and expression.

## Materials

- Readers' Theatre scripts are available for many Capstone Interactive titles. This lesson will use *Night of the Homework Zombies*, but many scripts are available on [www.capstoneinteractivelibrary.com](http://www.capstoneinteractivelibrary.com).
- Multiple copies of the student script – one for each reader.
- Title website: [www.MyCapstoneLibrary.com](http://www.MyCapstoneLibrary.com).
- Assessment website: [www.CapstoneKids.com](http://www.CapstoneKids.com).
- Extended learning website: [www.FactHound.com](http://www.FactHound.com).
- *Vocabulary* worksheet reproducible for *Night of the Homework Zombies*.
- A multimedia computer to display and listen to the interactive title.
- (Optional) Find costumes suitable for the parts and students.
- Interactive titles suitable for Readers' Theatre include:
 

|                               |  |                         |
|-------------------------------|--|-------------------------|
| Exploring Ecosystems          | Adventures in Sound                    | Journey into Adaptation |
| Understanding Photosynthesis  | Crash Course in Forces and Motion      | World of Food Chains    |
| Lessons in Science Safety     | Shocking World of Electricity          | Blast to the Past       |
| Night of the Homework Zombies | Invaders from the Great Goo Galaxy     |                         |
| Tiger Moth, Insect Ninja      | Tiger Moth and the Dragon Kite Contest |                         |

## Procedure

### Preparation

- 1) Copy the readers' theatre script(s).
- 2) Copy the included *vocabulary* worksheet – 1 per student.

### Setup

- 3) Assign each student a part that is appropriate to that student's reading ability.
- 4) Prior to a public performance, have students look through the pages, identify their character, and practice their part.
- 5) Costumes are not required, but often make the Readers' Theater more accessible to all students.

### Direct Instruction



- 6) Have students perform the readers' theatre.
- 7) Open the Interactive title as a class on a projector or interactive white board, or with individual computers
- 8) Show the students where the glossary is located in the back of the interactive book (click on the glossary tab or on the features tab to find the glossary).
- 9) Ask a student to read aloud the definition of the first term in the glossary.
- 10) Pass out the *Vocabulary Worksheet*.
- 11) Show the students how to write the definition on a worksheet or in their vocabulary notebook.
- 12) Ask the students to find and write the definitions for all of the glossary words.
- 13) Allow for time for the students to listen to the book a few times making sure they use the features you've introduced to them.

## Assessment

After the students have listened to the interactive book and feel they know the story well enough, show the students the link to CapstoneKids on the search result page.

Have students take the quiz on Night of the Homework Zombies, and then show you their certificate on screen after completing the test.

## Extended Learning Activities

- 1) FactHound: Show the student how to access FactHound through [www.facthound.com](http://www.facthound.com). Here they are lead to a variety of websites that are kid-safe. Lead them to click on the science tab, and then ask them to write down (in their notebook) the addresses of two websites they would like to visit.
- 2) CapstoneKids Exploration: Allow the students to explore the author interviews, games and other fun activities on Capstone Kids as time allows.
- 3) Add suffixes to existing words to create new words about a favorite sport. For example, we added "-ify" and "-ology" to create zombify and zombiology.
- 4) Readers' Theatre Extension: Titles in the Graphic Novel format work very well for this extended lesson.
  - Discuss the following script roles: Narrator(s), Character(s), Silent Character(s), Sound Effects Person.
  - Give students an overview of their task. Each group should create a Readers Theatre script from the text selection that they choose from Capstone Interactive Library.
  - Have students identify the different roles in their selection and create their own Readers' Theatre script. Groups can then assign specific roles to each member.
  - Encourage students to use highlighters to identify their portions of the text.
  - Have students practice performing their scripts within the group.
  - Have each group perform their Readers Theater script in front of the class.



Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Night of the Homework Zombies

### Vocabulary Worksheet

Find these words in the glossary or in a dictionary and write the definitions below.

**Brainwash:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Contagious:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Mindless:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Substitute:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Zombie:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Zombify:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Extra credit:**

**Zombiology:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

