

Welcome to the Oral Fluency & Public Speaking Performance Lab: Classic Fairy/Folk Tales & Fables! Reading is an active, vocal art, yet students are rarely given the specific tools to transition from silent decoding to confident, expressive public presentation. Our classroom is a vibrant, interactive studio where students utilize the dynamic format of Readers' Theater performing adapted scripts of classic fairy tales, folk tales, and traditional fables without the pressure of memorization to eliminate performance anxiety and transform into commanding, articulate communicators.

Our comprehensive curriculum is meticulously aligned with the Illinois Learning Standards for 1st through 3rd Grade English Language Arts, focusing heavily on Foundational Reading Fluency (RF.4), Speaking & Listening (SL), and Deep Literary Comprehension (RL). In our community, families expect an exceptional academic foundation that builds strong leadership and communication skills early. This course treats performance as a sophisticated tool for literacy teaching students how to analyze authorial intent, master vocal mechanics, and command an audience using some of the most enduring stories in human history.

To ensure our weekly workshop time is fully maximized for collaborative performance and peer critique, this course carries academic expectations. Some weeks will require independent reading and script preparation homework to be completed before the next class session. This ensures students enter the lab fully prepared to step into their roles and collaborate seamlessly with their peers.

Advanced Reading Fluency & Folklore Analysis

Fluency is the essential runway to deep reading comprehension. Through targeted script work, we focus intensely on the core elements of advanced oral reading:

- **Vocal Prosody & Pacing (ILS.RF.1-3.4):** Students will practice reading grade-level prose aloud with absolute accuracy, natural pacing, and deliberate expression. Your child will learn how to read punctuation visually to convey the precise emotional weight of the text, bringing classic heroes, villains, and tricksters to life.
- **Theme, Moral, and Central Message (ILS.RL.1-3.2):** Fables and folk tales are uniquely designed to teach a lesson. As explicitly required by state standards, students will learn to recount these traditional stories from diverse cultures, analyze the characters' actions, and articulate the central message, moral, or lesson of the narrative.
- **Structural Purpose & Point of View (ILS.RL.1-3.6):** To perform a character well, a student must understand them deeply. Students will learn to distinguish their own point of view from that of the narrator or different characters, adjusting their vocal tone, projection, and inflection to reflect shifting perspectives and authorial intent.

Speaking, Listening, and Audience Delivery

Public speaking is a learned skill that requires physical and mental training. We guide early elementary students to step out of their comfort zones and command a room:

- **Rhetorical Mechanics & Presentation (ILS.SL.1-3.4):** Students will master the physical foundations of effective public speaking. We explicitly coach appropriate volume, clear vocal projection, intentional eye contact, and confident posture, ensuring students can present these timeless tales clearly and audibly.
- **Active Auditory Analysis (ILS.SL.1-3.1-3):** Effective communication is a two-way street. In our collaborative lab environment, students practice listening actively to their peers, building upon others' spoken ideas, and asking probing questions about the performances they observe.
- **Collaborative Ensemble Work (ILS.SL.1-3.6):** Students will learn to adapt their speech contextually, recognizing when to speak formally as a narrator versus dynamically as a character in a fairy tale. This teamwork fosters a deep sense of social-emotional confidence, transforming the anxiety of public speaking into a shared, celebratory success.

This performance lab bridges the gap between the quiet page and commanding oral expression. By the conclusion of the course, your child will have shifted from a passive reader to an expressive, confident presenter. We are looking forward to a semester of powerful voices, timeless stories, and immense personal and academic growth.

Warmly,

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