

# READERS THEATER

**Directions:**

1. Choose a passage in your text that has rich dialogue between characters.
2. Create a Readers Theater script from the dialogue using the guidelines below. You may work on your own or with one to three other students.
3. Practice performing before presenting to the class.

**Writer or Writers:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Guidelines for Writing a Readers Theater Script:**

- ◆ Use the dialogue exactly as it's written in the text.
- ◆ Set up the dialogue the way writers do in plays:  
Richie:  
Tamika:
- ◆ Place in parentheses directions for how actors speak their words:  
Richie: (*shouting*)  
Tamika: (*annoyed tone*)
- ◆ Include one or more narrators. The narrator summarizes the plot, setting, and descriptive paragraphs that can come between lines of dialogue.
- ◆ Perform your Readers Theater script sitting on chairs or stools in front of your audience.
- ◆ Use the tone of your voice, facial expressions, and gestures to project characters' personalities and themes. There are no costumes. The audience visualizes and understands setting and the characters based on the performance.

**Guidelines for the Audience:** After the performance, the actors can lead a discussion using these prompts and questions and/or ones they compose.

- ◆ Explain the feelings you had and why these developed.
- ◆ What did you notice about the characters' personalities?
- ◆ Evaluate decisions the characters made.
- ◆ How did the dialogue deepen your understanding of the characters?
- ◆ How did the setting help you better understand a character's motivation and decisions?