

Narration, Dictation & Public Speaking in the Primary Grades

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NARRATION

Definition: Children tell back as much as they can remember from something they've read, heard or done.

Value: Comprehension, clarification, teacher evaluation, linguistic development, fluency, confidence, purposeful speaking, children hear thoughts

Approaches: Frequent opportunity, partners, parents, homework, total encouragement, safe environment.

Development: Students take "notes from their brain", using key words for retelling and summarizing.

DICTION

Definition: Children write on paper what they hear said to them.

Value: Attentiveness, correct language patterns, meticulousness, stamina, information

Approaches: Daily short sessions, vocabulary/spelling words on board, frequent repetition of patterns. Build a story if possible.

Development: Shift from full sentences to key words; students take "notes from a lecture" to summarize a verbal/auditory presentation.

PUBLIC SPEAKING

Definition: Children prepare a speech by practicing telling back content from any key word outline (any unit), and deliver it formally to a group.

Value: Preparation, confidence, peer reinforcement of information, locution, life skill

Approaches: Opportunity weekly (or more), practice with teacher coaching, formalize the process (lectern, microphone, etc.). Content related to current areas of study. OK for multiple children to speak from same source.

Stage 1: Hands on lectern

Stage 2: Gestures

Stage 3: Body Movement

Stage 4: Research Report or Visual Aid

Development: Original speeches (notes from brain), "radio/TV" shows, debate, mini-lessons.