

Reading With Intonation Based on Emotion and Dialogue Punctuation

ACTIVITY #7

SEQUENCE: DEVELOPING FLUIDITY - PRIMAIRE

By Caroline Côté,

Primary School Educational Specialist



Purpose of the activity

The goal of this activity is to get your child to read with intonation based on the emotional context and dialogue punctuation.



Relevance of the activity

Reading with intonation requires modulating your voice according to punctuation marks, as presented in the previous capsule. But it also means reading and considering the emotional context of what you are reading or respecting the dialogue punctuation marks in a story, for example. When your child reads with these intonations, it makes their reading livelier and more colourful, in addition to demonstrating a good understanding of what they are reading.



LET'S GO!

Explain the activity:

We are going to read with intonation based on the emotions experienced or when characters speak.

Explain why:

Reading with emotion is important because it makes your reading much more dynamic and interesting. It also helps to better demonstrate that you understand the meaning of what you are reading.



Explain when:

Whenever you read stories or novels, you should try to read by modulating your tone of voice according to the emotions experienced by the characters and their words.

Try it together:



First, let's have some fun with emotions. Depending on the emotion I am experiencing, I will not express myself in the same way. It's the same when we read.

On pieces of paper, I've written down emotions: joy, sadness, anger, fear. We will draw an emotion from the pile and read a short paragraph according to that emotion. I'll start and it'll be your turn next.

It's the big day! Jonathan is going to get his new little puppy. He's wanted one for so long. His parents finally agreed to adopt one for his birthday. He is really looking forward to bringing her home for the first time.

(An emotion card is drawn. The action is modelled. The child is invited to draw an emotion in turn and read according to the emotion.)



Now, let's try to read by changing our voice. In stories, we can change our voice depending on who speaks or how the author tells us that a character expresses himself. For example, the author could write that the character is whispering or shouting. Let's use the same sentence to practise. This time, I'm going to roll a die. According to the number indicated on the die, we will read in a certain way.

(The dice is rolled. The action is modelled. The child is invited to roll the dice and read according to the number they have rolled.)



Quick tip!

To delve even deeper into emotions and dialogue, you can use children's stories. Does your child know what to look for in order to adopt the right intonation?

Typography. This is how words are written in the text: bold, lowercase or uppercase. These clues often indicate an emotion expressed by the characters.

Illustrations. This is where their observational skills come in. What are the expressions on the characters' faces? What situation are the characters in?

We must not forget that all these clues influence each other in order to adopt the right tone!





Reading according to emotions (emotion cards)

Joy	sadness	tear	anger	surprise	disappointment

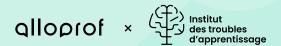
Reading with varying tones of voice (cards to draw from)

whispering	yelling	in a low voice	in a high-pitched voice	in the voice of (a character of your choice)

Reading with varying tones of voice (cards to draw from)

1. whispering	4. in a high-pitched voice
2. yelling	5. in the voice of
3. in a low voice	6. in the voice of

Note: For the label "in the voice of ...", use the examples of known and stereotyped characters to make it easier to imitate the voice. (e.g. an ogre, a mouse, a witch, a bear)



Observable elements in a children's story to read with the suggested intonation

Typography		
Bold letters	Indicate: - that you must raise the tone or yell - that the word may be important in the sentence and requires a pause or more attention - that a strong emotion is being expressed	
Uppercase letters	Indicate: - that you must speak loudly - that a strong emotion is being expressed	
A different font	Indicates: - that another character is expressing himself or herself differently (tone of voice) - that the word may be important in the sentence and requires a pause or more attention	

Illustrations		
Expressions	Infer the characters' emotions based on their expressions.	
Context	Infer emotions according to the character's situation.	