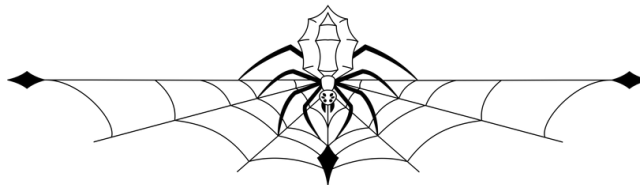


Name: _____

READER'S THEATER

Today you will perform a made up scene from the book "The Blue Witch" by reading the dialogue aloud with expression and emotion. Read through these steps to see how to prepare.



STEP 1: Read It Through

Read the entire script once silently

Make sure you understand what's happening in the scene

Think about your character's emotions

STEP 2: Know Your Character

What is your character feeling in this scene?

What is your character's personality?

How should your voice sound? (scared? angry? calm? desperate?)

STEP 3: Mark Your Script

Circle words to EMPHASIZE (say louder or with more emotion)

Add slashes (/) where you should PAUSE

Underline words to say more SLOWLY for effect

Add notes about your voice (whisper, shout,, etc.)

STEP 4: Practice Alone

Read your part out loud 3-4 times

Try different ways of saying your lines

Record yourself if possible and listen back

STEP 5: Practice Together

Rehearse with your group at least twice

Work on timing and listening to each other

Give each other feedback

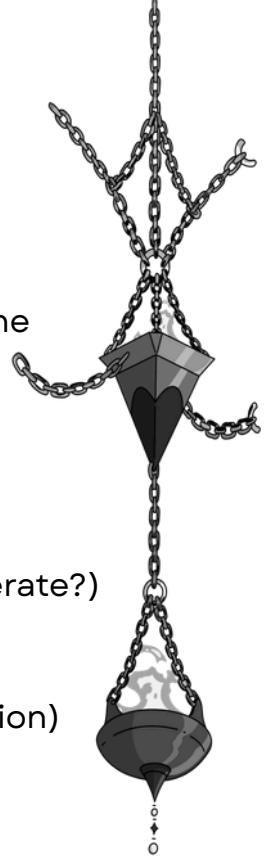
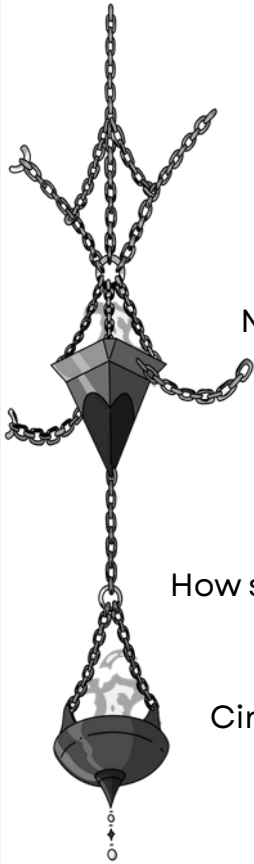
STEP 6: Perform

Read with confidence and expression

Don't worry about mistakes - keep going!

Make eye contact with your audience when you can

Use your voice to show emotions



READER'S THEATER SCRIPT

"TRAPPED IN THE DUNGEONS"

Adapted from Chapter 12, pages 76-78

Suggested Groups: 6 students per group, or students can double up on roles if needed.

CAST OF CHARACTERS:

NARRATOR - Reads the description and action (calm, clear voice)

HUGO - Nervous, scientific, worried, panicky

ABIGAIL - Frustrated, practical, brave, scared

ENDERA - Cruel, cold, satisfied with her revenge

GLORIAN - Shocked, conflicted about what's happening

NELLY - Worried, scared, unsure

THE SCRIPT

NARRATOR: Hugo and Abigail retreated through the garden, dodging among the brush. Thorns pulled and tore at their clothes. After several minutes, Hugo pulled up in a tiny clearing.

HUGO: (breathing hard) Do you think we lost them?

NARRATOR: The gardens were quiet, save for the afternoon calls of birds. Abigail nodded, sighing with relief.

ABIGAIL: (relieved) Yes, I think we're safe.

NARRATOR: (dramatically) No sooner had she spoken than a splintering crack shattered the air. The ground dropped out from below their feet, and they were falling into space. Hugo flailed his arms, screaming loudly.

HUGO: (screaming, terrified) Ahhhhhhhh!

ABIGAIL: (screaming) Ahhhhhhhh!

NARRATOR: They thwacked into the ground hard. (pause for effect) Fortunately, they landed on a small pile of hay, or they surely would have shattered some bones. Blurry sky peeked through a jagged hole above. Hugo's glasses had come off. He sat up, feeling a bit woozy, and fumbled for them. Abigail found them, wiping off the dirt, and put them back on his nose.

ABIGAIL: (concerned but practical) Are you okay?

HUGO: (patting himself, confused) No bones broken. (looking around) What is this place?

ABIGAIL: (standing up, dusting off her dress, realizing with dread) It must be part of the dungeons. I think we fell through an old hay chute.

HUGO: (voice rising in panic) Dungeons?! Have you heard about the rathos that live down here? (speaking faster, more panicked) I've heard they feast on the bones of the prisoners! They tunnel through stone to build their nests! Their eyes are like—

ABIGAIL: (cutting him off, sharp but quiet) I'm a Tarkana witch. Of course I know about rathos. (urgently, whispering) Quiet now, or you'll have them come running!

HUGO: (frustrated, glaring at her) Why is it every time I'm with you, I end up in mortal danger?

ABIGAIL: (defensive, pointing out) It's your fault for climbing that jookberry tree in the first place!

NARRATOR: A familiar face appeared in the opening over their heads

ABIGAIL: (calling up, desperate and hopeful) Endera, help!

NARRATOR: Next to Endera, Nelly and Glorian popped into view. The three witchlings looked shocked to see the two of them so far below.

HUGO: (desperately pleading) Please! There are rathos down here!

GLORIAN: (shocked, to Endera, protesting) Endera, we have to help them!

NELLY: (scared, stammering) The rathos will... they'll...

NARRATOR: (pause, then ominously) Endera's face drew into an evil smile.

ENDERA: (coldly, with satisfaction, speaking slowly) Then they'll be well fed tonight. (cruelly) Enjoy your stay in the dungeons.

GLORIAN: (protesting weakly) But Endera—

ENDERA: (commanding, sharp) Help me with these boards. Now.

NARRATOR: The girls pulled the broken boards over the opening until only a sliver of light shone through. (pause) Hugo and Abigail stood in darkness, listening to the sound of skittering in the stone walls around them.

HUGO: (whispering, terrified) Did you hear that?

ABIGAIL: (trying to sound brave but clearly scared) We're going to find a way out of here. (more firmly, as if convincing herself) We have to.

NARRATOR: (slow, ominous, building suspense) But deep in the dungeons, something was stirring. Something with red eyes and sharp teeth. Something very, very hungry.

ALL CAST MEMBERS: (in unison, dramatically) THE END... for now.

READER'S THEATER

AFTER PERFORMANCE SELF-REFLECTION:

1. Did I read clearly and accurately?

☐ Yes ☐ Mostly ☐ Need more practice

2. Did I use expression to show my character's feelings?

☐ Yes ☐ Mostly ☐ Need more practice

3. What was the best part of my performance?

4. What would I do differently next time?

5. How did performing help me understand the scene better?

