

## Tips for Implementing the RedRover Readers Program

### Prepare

- Review the book before you read it to students.
- Think about the students (ages, developmental levels, interests) and how the key concepts from the story apply to them.
- Choose 2 to 4 questions from each section of the Discussion and Activity Guides (before, during and after reading the story).
- It may help to write the questions that you plan to ask on sticky notes and put them in the book.

### Before You Read a Story

- Make sure everyone is comfortable. Have students face away from bright windows and distractions. Make sure everyone can see the book's illustrations.
- With very young children, you may designate a space such as a carpet square to sit on.
- Make the start of the activity a clear event, separate from getting settled. Have the students focus their minds on listening with a clear signal.
- Model effective listening and show genuine interest in what the children have to say.
- Show the cover and read the title and author of the book. Ask students about the cover.
- Suggest things the students can look or listen for during the story.

### During a Story

- Change your voice to fit the mood or action, if you like. Remember to read slowly and to stay neutral.
- Show the pictures and talk about the book as you read.
- Add information or change words to help students understand more words and explain the meaning of a new word.
- Ask students to make predictions about the plot, the characters and the setting.
- Pay attention to your listeners. Look up from the book from time to time to make eye contact with individuals within the group.
- Allow students to ask questions or make comments.
- Encourage and respect student responses and authority over their thoughts and experiences.
- Avoid answering the questions for the children.
- Monitor and adjust: Follow the cues of the students to respond to their age, background, and any other individual characteristic or challenges.
- Avoid getting frustrated. The objective is to engage the students with the main ideas of the discussion guide. Even if you read only a few pages you may have enough to discuss. Showing curiosity in the book is helpful.
- If you feel yourself beginning to cry, try focusing on the audience instead of the story.
- Have fun!

### After You Read a Story

- Ask questions from the Discussion and Activity Guides.
- If you have time, complete activities together.
- Model good listening. Listen with all your attention! Think about students' responses.
- Report about your readings to RedRover