

# **Reader's Theater for the 21st Century Learner**

## **Online Course**

**(15 hours)**

1. Dates of Course this course is set to run: (TBD)

2. Course Description

This course is designed to help teachers and students understand how using 21st century technology tools with Reader's Theater can help improve reading fluency, comprehension, foster motivation to read and develop digital citizenship amongst a global community. Teaching Reader's Theater in the 21st century classroom enables teachers to learn how to take a traditional classroom reading strategy and implement it into the 21st century classroom using tools that are readily accessible in most classrooms today. Teachers that have had experience with Reader's Theater will find using 21st century technology to produce a performance very exciting and in turn will learn many new skills to enhance their current teaching strategies. Teachers that have never tried Reader's Theater will learn how this strategy can help build fluency, cooperation, and comprehension as well as learn many new 21st century tools and skills to implement immediately into their classrooms.

3. Course Goals, Outcomes and Objectives

### SWBAT

- Increase knowledge of Reader's Theater
- Learn how to locate copyright free scripts for classroom performances
- Develop skills using 21st century technology tools for teaching and learning
- Use an action plan to create an online Reader's Theater performance
- Build reading fluency, improve comprehension and motivation
- Develop and perform an original script based on a specific content area.
- Learn how to use videoconferencing technology to perform a Reader's Theater production
- Develop global empathy through Reader's Theater

4. Course Facilitator

Deirdre Doherty Certified TESOL Teacher, PreK-6th Grade Teacher, and Educational Technology Specialist K-12

My professional career in education has spanned over 30 years. It has led me from the beginning of the technology age in the schools during the early 1980s as an elementary school teacher, through the current digital age during the early 21st century as a Technical Trainer. It is extremely exciting

being in a school system now as a Technical Trainer in the midst of this technological revolution.

## 5. NYS Standards Addressed

### **English Language Arts Grade 4**

**Standard 1:** Students will read, write, listen, and speak for information and understanding.

4.1.R.9 Select books independently to meet informational needs

4.1.R.10 Make inferences and draw conclusions on the basis of information from the text, with assistance

**Standard 2:** Students will read, write, listen, and speak for literary response and expression.

4.2.R. 10 Use knowledge of story structure, story elements, and key vocabulary to interpret stories

4.2.R. 13 Identify literary elements, such as setting, plot, and character, of different genres, with assistance

**Standard 3:** Students will read, write, listen, and speak for critical analysis and evaluation.

4.3.R.3 Analyze ideas and information on the basis of prior knowledge and personal experience

**Standard 4:** Students will read, write, listen, and speak for social interaction.

4.4.R.1 Share reading experiences to build relationships with peers or adults; for example, read together silently or aloud

### **Literacy Competencies**

4.LC.R.6 Fluency-Sight-read automatically high-frequency words and irregularly spelled content words

4.LC.R.7 Fluency-Read with confidence from a variety of grade-level texts with appropriate speed, accuracy, and expression

4.LC.R.15 Comprehension Strategies-Read a variety of grade-level texts with understanding

4.LC.R.17 Comprehension Strategies-Work cooperatively with others to determine meaning

4.LC.R.21 Comprehension Strategies-State a main idea and support it with details from the text

4.LC.R.23 Comprehension Strategies-Participate in discussions about grade-level texts

4.LC.R.24 Comprehension Strategies-Demonstrate comprehension of grade-level texts through a variety of responses, such as writing, drama, and oral presentations

4.LC.R.26 Motivation to Read-Show interest in a wide range of grade-level texts, both literary and informational

### **National Educational Technology Standards for Students**

#### **2. Communication and Collaboration**

Students use digital media and environments to communicate and work collaboratively, including at a distance, to support individual learning and contribute to the learning of others. Students:

- b. communicate information and ideas effectively to multiple audiences using a variety of media and formats.
- c. develop cultural understanding and global awareness by engaging with learners of other cultures.
- d. contribute to project teams to produce original works or solve problems.

#### **5. Digital Citizenship**

Students understand human, cultural, and societal issues related to technology and practice legal and ethical behavior. Students:

- a. advocate and practice safe, legal, and responsible use of information and technology.
- b. exhibit a positive attitude toward using technology that supports collaboration, learning, and productivity.
- c. demonstrate personal responsibility for lifelong learning.
- d. exhibit leadership for digital citizenship.

## 6. Technology Operations and Concepts

Students demonstrate a sound understanding of technology concepts, systems, and operations. Students:

- a. understand and use technology systems.
- b. select and use applications effectively and productively.
- c. troubleshoot systems and applications.
- d. transfer current knowledge to learning of new technologies.

## 6. Contact Information

Deirdre Doherty-[ddoherty@nyit.edu](mailto:ddoherty@nyit.edu) 516-851-9095

## 7. Prerequisite Skills/Requirements

- Students should know how to use Microsoft Word (Mac or Windows)-creating, attaching, uploading and downloading documents
- Students should be able to access the Internet, search, and use e-mail.
- Students should have basic knowledge of web literacy and be familiar with vocabulary such as URL, web browser, links, texting and chat.

## 8. Any software that will be required

- A web camera
- Dim Dim account @ [www.dimdim.com](http://www.dimdim.com)

## 9. How you will determine your recommendation for in-service credit

- Grades for this course will be based on completion of weekly reading and online assignments, both individual and group assigned.
- Participation in online class discussions as indicated in the *Course Policies* document.
- Plagiarism and cheating are unacceptable. If you plagiarize, you will have to resubmit the assignment, receive a failing grade for the assignment and perhaps even fail the course.

In the discussion board, please post that you have read this document and agree to the terms listed above.