

Books Are the Fun Part! Boost Your Storytimes with Interactive Reading Techniques

1. Get rhythm

Find a book with rhythm built in (like *Rah, Rah, Radishes!* or *Tanka, Tanka Skunk*) and have kids clap or tap along.

2. Say it again

Find a book that includes a repeated word or phrase (like *Hooray for Hat!* by Brian Won or *The Cow Loves Cookies* by Karma Wilson). Share the repeated element with kids and ask for their help repeating it. Be prepared for **extreme participation!**

3. Sing out

Find a singable book, and sing it!

4. Embrace repetition

Does your class love a certain story? Read it again! If the story lends itself to interpretation, try reading it, telling it, and singing it. Then make a craft project about it and read it again.

5. All together now

Find a book that lends itself to choral reading (like *I Went Walking* by Sue Williams), and have children repeat the words after you.

6. Ask questions

Give your students a chance to get involved by asking questions about a story as you read. Asking open-ended questions (“How is Elephant feeling now?”) and giving children a chance to respond is called **dialogic reading**. It gives kids a chance to feel invested in a story.

7. Mix it up

Add fun transition activities and feature many kinds of books!

*Try these techniques with some of your favorite picture books,
or pair with “Amadee’s Storytime Picks” booklists.*