

Volume (Lady Volume) Practice Activities

Readers' Theatre: A Forever Home

Setting: An animal shelter

Characters: Ginger and Ringo, two dogs waiting to be adopted. Ringo has just arrived.

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Ginger: Howdy—do, neighbor! My name's Ginger.

Ringo: Um...hello. I'm Ringo.

Ginger: Now, it might not be my business, but I noticed you haven't nibbled one morsel of that scrumptious dog food.

Ringo: I'm kind of nervous, I guess. I've never been at a shelter before and this is my first time indoors, too.

Ginger: You've never been indoors? Were you a cattle dog out on a ranch, or pulling sleds someplace exotic?

Ringo: No, actually I lived on a chain in my owner's back yard.

Ginger: Grrr... Chains are so despicable!

Ringo: I agree. One day, I got desperate enough that I tugged on that chain so hard it broke, and I made my escape.

Ginger: You became a mutt on the run like me?

Ringo: Yep. That is, until the animal shelter volunteers scooped me up.

Ginger: That was so fortunate. Do you realize that now your story could have a happy ending?

Ringo: How could living here forever be a happy ending?

Ginger: Ringo, this place is temporary! People come here to adopt pets, and you might be exactly the kind of dog they're hoping to find.

Ringo: Me?

Ginger: Yes, you. Wait, the shelter just opened, and the families are streaming in!

Ringo: What do I do? What do I do?

Ginger: Just be yourself, Ringo and smile. Dogs can smile, you know.

Ringo: Especially when they have a neighbor like you!

Before You Read:

Think about what you may already know animal shelters. Think about the idea from the video: reading with proper volume.

While You Read:

Ask a friend or family member to join you in reading the "Readers' Theatre" passage, "A Forever Home." As you read, record your voices with a tape recorder, computer, iPad, etc.

When you have finished reading, play back your recording. Listen to the volume of your voice. Could you easily hear yourself and your partner?

Practice reading the passage a few more times. Remember to keep thinking about how you sound to others.

Don't be shy!

Speak up!

Project your voice!

Read, record, and compare your reading voice one more time. Did the volume of your voice improve?

After You Read:

Now it's time to try Thinking Aloud. Reread the Readers' Theatre piece one more time with your friend or family member. After you finish reading, ask your partner if:

You read with a proper volume?

There are any portions of the text needing additional practice?

You need to consider any other key fluency elements as you read?

Ask yourself if:

There were any words you didn't know how to say?

There were any words that you didn't know the definition of?

Concentrating on projecting your voice helped you to read more fluently?