

Nursery Rhyme Time

skill

GOAL: To help students get more comfortable speaking “in character”.

SET-UP: Teacher brings in one or two nursery rhyme books. Also 20 or so slips of paper with a different character on each one (see printable below).

EXERCISE: Teacher chooses one nursery rhyme and then has 5-6 students come up one at a time reading the nursery rhyme in a different character (each student picks a character on the way up – or teacher can hand out ahead of time). The students should try as much as possible to read the rhyme in the character chosen – although they should not change the words (teacher may allow them a few words of introduction in their character).

Another option is to pass out whole sheet of the printable below and let students guess which character the student was portraying.

Students can comment on ways to make the reading even more in character after the student is finished.

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| Sports Commentator | Pastor | College Professor |
| Farmer | Preschool Teacher | British Gentleman |
| 2-year old | Valley Girl (teen) | Drunkard |
| Southern Belle | English Cockney Young Lady (Eliza Doolittle) | Preschool Teacher |
| Very Old Man | Game Show Host | Cheerleader |
| Politician | Gum-Chewing Waitress | Child with a Lisp |
| Professional Football Player | Mouse | Older Wealthy Lady |
| Slob | News Reporter | New York Policeman |