

GRADE 8 English Language Arts Reading and Responding: Lesson 29

Read aloud to the students the material that is printed in **boldface type** inside the boxes. Information in regular type inside the boxes and all information outside the boxes should **not** be read to students. Possible student responses are included in parentheses after the questions.

Any directions that ask you to do something, such as to turn to a page or hand out materials to students, will have an arrow symbol (\rightleftarrows) by them.

Optional: At some point during the lesson, you may read the passage aloud so students can hear fluent, expressive reading and the correct pronunciation of unfamiliar words. You may read the passage aloud at any point during the lesson as you feel appropriate. The decision to read the passage aloud should depend on student needs, the degree of text difficulty, and the particular lesson.

Purpose of Lesson 29:

In this lesson, the tutor and students will

- read a fictional passage, and
- practice answering multiple choice and short answer questions.

Equipment/Materials Needed:

- Student Worksheet: Reading and Responding Lesson 29-1
- Student Worksheet: Reading and Responding Lesson 29-2
- pencils

Introduction:

Today you will apply reading, thinking, and test-taking strategies by reading another fictional passage and answering a few questions about it.

⇒ Distribute Student Worksheets: Reading and Responding Lesson 29-1 and 29-2.

After students have finished reading the passage and completed the worksheet, go over the answers together.

After discussing the answers, ask students to share experiences or concerns they may have had about speaking in front of a group of people.

Answers to Worksheet (Key words in the question and correct answers are highlighted.)

1. Explain Jennifer's Dilemma.

She was afraid to speak in front of a large crowd of people. She was expected to memorize the speech and was afraid she would forget it.

2. Which of the following statements describes Yolanda's opinion of Jennifer?

A. Jennifer is very capable of making the speech.

B. Jennifer should not attempt to make the speech because she is too nervous.

C. Jennifer hasn't had enough experience making speeches to be giving a speech to a large crowd.

D. Jennifer should not try to memorize the speech.

3. Which words best describe Yolanda?

A. jealous and uncaring

B. jealous and caring

C. supportive and sympathetic

D. supportive and encouraging

4. Give two arguments that Yolanda makes to convince Jennifer that she can make the speech:

◆ *Jennifer has had experience giving speeches when she ran for Student Council officer, and when she introduced the speaker at the Veterans' Day Assembly.*

◆ *Making speeches will be good practice for Jennifer, who wants to become a lawyer.*

5. What would you do if you had to write a speech, memorize it, and give it before your school student body? Would you be confident enough to give the speech? Explain your answer.

Accept students' answers that make sense and are fully explained.

THE DILEMMA

Jennifer was terrified at the prospect of having to make a speech in front of the entire school. "I'll panic when I see everybody looking at me," she whined to her friend, Yolanda. Her eyes filled with tears. "Oh, what am I going to do?"

"You just worry about everything. You are such a pessimist!" Yolanda replied. "Everybody likes you; and you speak intelligently in class, so why should a larger audience bother you? After all, you made that speech when you ran for Student Council officer, and you introduced the speaker at the Veterans' Day Assembly."

"But this is different. I have to make a real speech about the significance of the Constitution in our daily lives," Jennifer explained. "Besides, Mr. Campbell expects me to memorize the speech. What if I forget what I'm supposed to say, and I'm just standing there with my mouth gaping open? There will be guests there and the mayor is supposed to come, and I just can't do this! I just can't."

"You told me once that you wanted to be a lawyer," Yolanda remarked. "If you become a lawyer, you will have to speak before judges and juries and argue points of law. That's bound to be more difficult than making a speech in the auditorium."

"But when I'm a lawyer, I'll be older," Jennifer argued, "and I'll have more time to..."

"To practice talking in front of people?" Yolanda interrupted. "Why not start practicing now?"

