Alternatives to Round-Robin Reading

Try these read-aloud activities to strengthen students’ literacy and SEL skills.

1. **Pairing Is Caring**
   Put students in pairs. One student reads aloud while the other listens. The process then reverses with the same passage read again. After each reading, the listener asks questions to ensure the reader understands the text.

2. **Join the Chorus**
   In choral reading, the teacher and students read a text aloud together. Another variation is echo reading, where the teacher reads a line aloud, and students then read the same line aloud.

3. **Buddy Up!**
   Pair up students from different grades and have them read together. Younger kids will see greater fluency modeled, and older kids will learn by answering questions and practicing skills like patience and empathy.

4. **Earworms**
   Listen to an audiobook while students silently read along. Pause to pose questions and model comprehension strategies, like asking students, “what did you just read? Who can recap it?”

5. **Silence Is Golden**
   This strategy isn’t technically about reading aloud, but it’s fine to ask kids to read silently to themselves in class. Initially, keep the passages brief—maybe just a paragraph. Question students about the content so you can gauge comprehension. If they have trouble, have them reread the passage.

6. **Read, Discuss, Repeat**
   Facilitate a discussion of a passage students have just read silently. Discussion is an authentic way to test for comprehension, strengthen reasoning skills, and increase listening capacities.

7. **Not Your Mama’s Drama!**
   Split students into mixed-skill groups and have them perform what they are reading. Making acting choices, such as how to stand, what sort of emotion to use, and which words to emphasize, can only happen after a student has deeply comprehended a text.

8. **Alone Time Is Good Time**
   Let students practice reading aloud by themselves. A program like Reading Assistant Plus™ listens as each word is read aloud and delivers immediate support whenever a learner struggles with or mispronounces a word—reinforcing newly learned reading skills, vocabulary, and fluency.

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