

GROUP READ AROUND

The purpose of a group read around is to involve all students in practice of their oral reading skills. It invites and promotes participation and helps to create a safe environment for students to grow as readers. A group read around can be used as a whole class activity or it can be used in small groups. It is most effective in small groups to build towards autonomy as readers and to cut down on apprehension that most students feel when reading in front of the whole class.

A group read around differs from Popcorn in one significant way; students are not allowed as much freedom of choice. The rules, however, are the same.

1. All students must read at least one sentence, but no more than a paragraph.
2. No student may read more than once until all students in the class have read at least one time.
3. When it is your turn, you must read immediately by following along. If you do not know where we are, you forfeit your turn.
4. There should be no pauses between readers.
5. You may not pass.
6. No put downs or making fun of anyone!

Make sure the class is seated in a circle to make the read around smoother. Ask for a volunteer to begin reading. If there are no volunteers, you can go first. However, let the students know that if you go first, you will decide whether to go to your right or your left which means whoever sits on that side of you goes next. Someone may volunteer. Ask them if they would like to go to their right or their left. Remind students of the rules. Tell them the goal is to read continuously without stopping so that it will be easier to understand the text. Begin reading.

If you are having students work in small groups for the read around, tell them the same rules apply. Ask for volunteers from each group to start. Ask each volunteer if they would like to go to their right or to their left. Tell them to begin. It is best to set a time limit for this activity.