

## READING OUT LOUD

The purpose of reading out loud is to increase oral skills, improve reading strategies, and to encourage students to practice reading in a safe community environment. As students begin the sometimes painful process of reading in front of their peers, allow them to struggle with the pronunciation of words. Try not to read the word for them before they have the opportunity to try pronouncing the word for themselves. It is only through their struggles that they will learn. Encourage them to try out new words and celebrate their victories with them. By doing this, you will model for them a safe way to wrestle with text, the same way all readers struggle with difficult words and new texts. Also, by creating a comfortable place for struggle, you will find that reluctant readers begin volunteering to read, that reading out loud will become something all students look forward to participating in. You may find that other students will become impatient with slower readers. Encourage their patience by modeling for them and allow the slow readers to read too. You are establishing a community of readers where everyone will have the opportunity to participate.