READ ALOUD TIPS
FROM MEM FOX AND OTHERS
COMPILED BY READ TO ME INTERNATIONAL

1. SELECT A BOOK THAT YOU LIKE AND PRACTICE READING IT
2. SHOW THE COVER, INTRODUCE THE AUTHOR AND ILLUSTRATOR
3. ENSURE YOUR AUDIENCE SITS CLOSE TO YOU AND CLOSE TO EACH OTHER
4. ENJOY YOURSELF! THROW YOURSELF INTO IT SO YOU’RE NEVER BORING!
5. WELCOME EVERYONE WITH ROVING EYE-CONTACT ON THE FIRST FEW LINES
6. BE EXPRESSIVE AND HAVE FUN, FEEL THE EMOTIONS
7. DON’T RUSH, SPEAK SLOWLY AND LOUD ENOUGH FOR EVERYONE TO HEAR
8. ENGAGE THE LISTENER THROUGH “REPEAT AFTER ME,” GESTURES AND OTHER PHYSICAL MOVEMENT
9. ASK QUESTIONS AS YOU READ, “WHAT DO YOU THINK WILL HAPPEN NEXT?”
10. MAKE THE PHRASES INTO BEAUTIFUL, LILTING, UP & DOWN MUSIC
11. CHANGE VOCALLY: HIGH/LOW; LOUD/SOFT; FAST/SLOW
12. SPEAK THE VERBS WITH ANIMATION, EVEN THOUGH THEY LOOK BORING
13. FALL IN LOVE WITH THE PAUSE
14. SAY GOODBYE TO EVERYONE WITH ROVING EYE-CONTACT ON THE LAST LINES
15. SPEAK THE LAST LINE V-E-R-Y SLOWLY
16. DON’T SPEAK RIGHT AFTER YOU HAVE FINISHED: ALLOW A FEW SECONDS OF TOTAL SILENCE FOR “THE FEATHER TO FALL TO THE FLOOR”

AFTER
DISCUSS THE 5 W’S: WHO, WHAT, WHEN, WHY AND WHERE
DISCUSS SEQUENCE: BEGINNING, MIDDLE AND END OF THE STORY