

The Grannie Annie Family Story Celebration

# Reading Your Grannie Annie Story Aloud

Young People Learning and Sharing Family Stories – [www.TheGrannieAnnie.org](http://www.TheGrannieAnnie.org)

When you read your story aloud, you provide an opportunity for other people to learn about events from your family history. Whether you are reading to your extended family, to your classmates, or to a larger audience—perhaps over the school intercom or on the radio—listeners will understand your story better and enjoy it more if you read it well. The tips below will help you present your story at its best.

- 1. Practice reading your story *aloud*** so that you will read smoothly, without stumbling over any words. You may want to first read it aloud without an audience, before reading to a few family members or close friends.
- 2. Before you begin reading, spend a few moments looking at your audience** with a pleasant expression on your face. In addition to helping you and your audience connect with each other, this will help you to give a strong beginning to your story.
- 3. As you read, maintain a visual connection with your audience** by raising your eyes from the page occasionally, and looking directly at someone in the audience.
- 4. Read slowly enough and loudly enough** that listeners will be able to understand your words and take in your ideas. Remember that most people in your audience will be hearing your story for the first time.
- 5. Read with expression, following your punctuation and varying your pitch.** Pause briefly at commas, periods, and other marks to reflect phrasing within sentences and paragraphs. Read in a relaxed, natural voice that rises and falls—do not read in a monotone.
- 6. When you are reading dialogue, read the words as the person in your story might have said them.** Let your reading reflect the emotion the person was feeling—excitement, anger, sadness, etc.
- 7. Vary the pace and volume where appropriate.** For example, if you are reading about exciting events that are happening very quickly in a noisy environment, you might want to read a little faster and a little more loudly.
- 8. After reading your story to a few family members or close friends, ask them to tell you what you are doing well and how you can make your reading of your story even more engaging.**

Following these tips will make you a competent, confident reader. Not only will your listeners enjoy your presentation; you will enjoy it as well.