

Program Name: Read it Right Now

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Artist: Laughing Matters

## Special Requirements:

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One 6' or 8' table

## Special Points of Interest:

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Leslie prefers to spell the title of the show "Read It Write Now" because you cannot read something unless someone has written it. Jay prefers "Read It Right Now", as in "read it correctly now" or "read it at this moment".

## Performance Description

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Reading is a progression of concepts. Leslie and Jay Cady celebrate that journey with circus skills and humor.

The show begins with a Mime Alphabet. Leslie announces as Jay performs mime illusions from "A is for Apple" to "Z is for Zipper".

Letters are the building blocks of words. Jay adds a twist to a classic vaudeville routine by manipulating boxes with letters on them to spell words for the students to read.

Next Jay and Leslie use four magic bags labeled "Rhyme", "Synonym", "Antonym", and "Homophone". A series of magical transformations changes the word "Hat" into "Rabbit".

In the final section, Leslie leaves the room and Jay takes suggestions from the students for nouns that Leslie must use in an improvised story. The show concludes with improvised stories based on student suggested verbs and adjectives.



## Educational Objectives & Standards

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### Students will:

- learn that stories have a beginning-middle-end structure.
- experience mime as a nonverbal form of storytelling.
- suggest nouns, verbs, and adjectives for improvised stories.

### Standards addressed:

#### Behavioral Studies

- Understands that many skills can be practiced until they become automatic, and that if the right skills are practiced, performance may improve.

## Artist Bio: Jay & Leslie Cady

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### List of Resources:

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#### Music and Books:

**Really Rosie** — Book and lyrics by Maurice Sendak, music by Carole King. This is a wonderful collaboration of stories told through song, text, and illustration. It shows how the same stories can be told through different media.

#### Online Resources:

[rif.org](http://rif.org) — The Reading Is Fundamental website is a great resource for students, parents, and teachers.

[Madlibs.org](http://Madlibs.org) The improvised stories in the show are similar to Madlibs. Now you can play Madlibs online for free!

Contact KCYA for more information about this and other programs

816.531.4022  
[KCYA.org](http://KCYA.org)

Leslie and Jay Cady have been full-time performing artists since 1980. They have performed their engaging blend of juggling, mime, magic, and wacky dialogue in 32 states and seven foreign countries.

Jay and Leslie enjoy using their big bag of tricks to illustrate and reinforce curriculum concepts. Their infectious sense of fun is a hit with students, teachers, and administrators.

In 1984 they studied with legendary mime Marcel Marceau. They were two of 60 students chosen to study with Marceau in the first

two-week workshop he taught in the United States.

They have two daughters who join the act in the summer. When Jay and Leslie were PTA Cultural Arts Chairpersons they saw the need for school assemblies that reinforce curriculum.

Jay and Leslie have twice been nominated for the “Best of Kansas City Theater Awards”. They have performed for ESPN, the National Theater of Guatemala, and the U.S. Department of Defense Overseas Tours.

### Vocabulary

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**Noun:** a person, place, or thing

**Verb:** an action word

**Adjective:** a describing word

**Rhyming Words:** words that have the same ending sound

**Synonyms:** words with the same meaning

**Antonyms:** words with opposite meanings

**Homophones** (also called homonyms): words that sound alike

**Improvise:** to make up as you go along

**Mime:** a form of storytelling without words where the performers act out the story

### Post-Performance Activities

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1. Have your class make up their own mime alphabet. Each student has a different letter of the alphabet and makes up a short mime story about something that starts with that letter.
2. Tell improvised stories. Send one person out of the room. Write five nouns on cards. The person who left the room returns and makes up a story using all of the nouns. Repeat the game using verbs and then adjectives.
3. Make word chains. Start with any word. The next word in the chain must be a synonym, antonym, homophone, or rhyme of the previous word. For added challenge, pick the first and final words. For example, try making a chain from “soup” to “nuts” or from “here” to “eternity”.