

Dr. Seuss's "The Cat in the Hat" Will Help You Get Your Point Across!

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Sample of Content:

Learn how to use The Cat in the Hat to make your presentations more exciting and entertaining.

Content:

I was recently coaching an engineer who wanted to improve his speaking skills. After videotaping him, we discussed his strong points and then his areas of improvement. Then we got to the area of vocal variety. Vocal variety is the quality of your speech that holds your audience. It is the combination of pitch changes, pauses, inflection, rhythm, and loudness in your voice that adds "color" to any conversation or speech. I suggested he try Dr. Seuss's "The Cat in the Hat." At that point he looked at me like I had a third eye. I then explained how "The Cat in the Hat" could help anyone improve his or her speaking skills, especially vocal variety, and have fun doing it.

Can you remember being read "The Cat in the Hat" by your parents? What held your attention? What made you want to hear "The Cat in the Hat" again and again? "The Cat in the Hat" is set up so that you must use vocal variety to read the story. It's the vocal variety that held your attention.

Here's how Dr. Seuss's "The Cat in the Hat" can help you hold your audience's attention:

1. Buy the Book My favorite Dr. Seuss books for this type of exercise are "The Cat in the Hat" and "Green Eggs and Ham." You can go to any used bookstore and get a gently used copy of the book at a substantial discount. You can also go to www.half.com and get the book at more than 50% off the price.

2. Read with Passion Read to your children, nephews, cousins, etc. While reading aloud, exaggerate your pitch, tone, and pauses. The children will enjoy it as you will become used to the sound of your voice. Children are the best barometers to let you know if you are doing it correctly. The children will have a look on their faces that show they are hanging on every word you are saying.

Continue to experiment with different ways to read "The

Cat in the Hat" while recording yourself on audiotape. The more fun you have, the more everyone involved will benefit from this exercise.

3. Apply It Right Away (That's the Way!) Immediately

apply your newly acquired vocal variety skills in any speaking situation whether it's in a meeting, with co-workers, speaking in front of a group, or one-on-one with another person. It may feel a little strange in the beginning.

However, remember the more you use your new skills, the more comfortable you will be.

So go out, get a Dr. Seuss book, and improve your vocal variety. You will have more people hanging on every word, you will be more persuasive, and your speaking abilities will be more colorful and entertaining. So do it today (It will pay!).

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