

Approach: Group
 Focus: Reading aloud effectively for an audience
 Resources: 5 copies of the play, Special Performance card

Questions / instructions:

In this activity your team is going to read a play called *Kea Magic*. Try to make it sound as interesting and realistic as you can. You don't have to do any acting unless you want to.

The play is about trying to keep a kea safe by making it invisible. But being invisible turns out to be not much fun. So then they have to think of a way to make it visible again.

Here are the copies of the play. [Student 1] is Kea, [Student 2] is Grandma, [Student 3] is Fantail and [Student 4] is Tui.

Give each student a copy of the play. Allocate the parts.

First practise reading the play together.

Remain with the group to help with any words.

Now talk about how to make it sound really good. Think of ways to use your voices to make the play seem real.

After you've practised it twice you will do it again for a special recording on the video. You can stand and move around if you want.

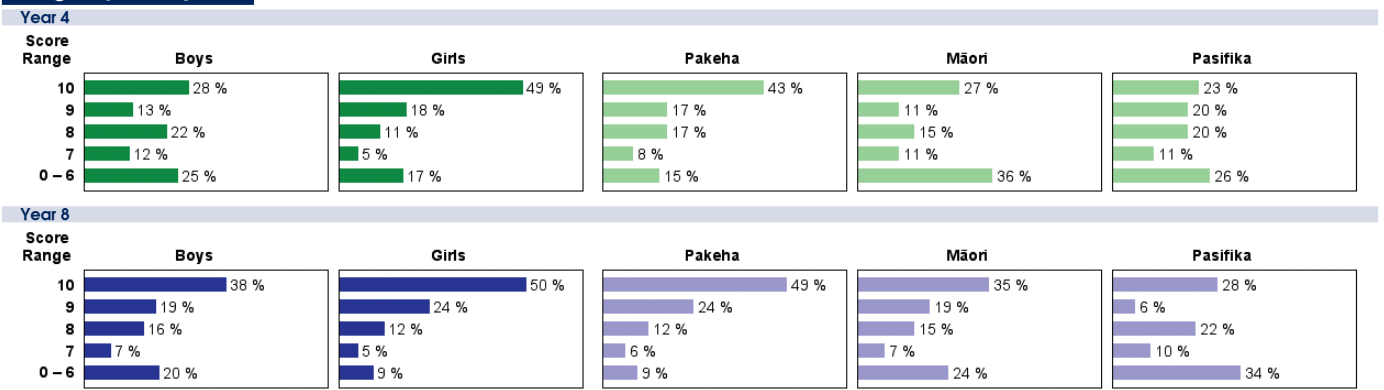
Withdraw from the group. Allow time to practise the play twice.

Now it's time to do your best performance of the play.

Wave 'Special Performance' card.

		% response 2008 ('04)				% response 2008 ('04)	
		year 4	year 8			year 4	year 8
Expressiveness in relation to context: <i>(capturing the feel of the part)</i>	strong	57 (59)	58 (59)	Accuracy:	strong	77 (76)	81 (84)
	moderate	33 (35)	35 (33)		moderate	19 (24)	18 (15)
	weak	10 (6)	7 (8)		weak	4 (0)	1 (1)
Timing, continuity:	strong	67 (68)	86 (86)	Speech clarity:	strong	75 (82)	78 (76)
	moderate	29 (30)	13 (13)		moderate	22 (17)	20 (22)
	weak	4 (2)	1 (1)		weak	3 (1)	2 (2)
Fluency within individual speeches:	strong	55 (58)	69 (73)	Total score:	10	38 (45)	44 (51)
	moderate	39 (38)	29 (26)		9	15 (10)	21 (17)
	weak	6 (4)	2 (1)		8	17 (13)	14 (9)
					7	9 (13)	7 (9)
				0-6	21 (19)	14 (14)	

Subgroup Analyses:



Commentary:

As with some other speaking tasks, year 4 students performed comparably to year 8 students in expressiveness, but lower in their co-ordination with other performers. There was little change between 2004 and 2008. On average, girls did markedly better than boys, and Pakeha students than Māori and Pasifika students.

YEAR 4: (A play for four characters.)

Kea: Grandma, grandma!
Grandma: What's the matter?
Fantail & Tui (together): We saw bird grabbers.
Grandma: Where?
Tui: On the other side of the forest.
Fantail: They were after Kea.
Grandma: We need to keep you safe.
Kea: I'm scared.
Grandma: Oh, I know. I'll make you invisible.
Tui: How?
Grandma: A little bit of this and a little bit of that. Now Kea, drink this up.
Fantail: Look, look you can't see Kea.
Kea: Can you really not see me?
Tui: Where are you?
Kea: Ouch, Tui, you just stood on my foot. Ouch. What did you do that for, Fantail?
Fantail: Do what? I was just stretching.
Kea: Ouch, you hit me again.
Grandma: Be careful, children. Now, off you go and play.
Tui: What shall we do?
Fantail: Let's play hopscotch.
Tui: It's my turn.
Kea: No it's not. It's my turn.
Fantail: How can it be your turn? We can't see if you step on the lines.
Kea: But I want to play. Grandma!!! They won't give me a turn.
Grandma: Can't you play nicely?
Tui: Grandma, we can't play, if we can't see Kea.
Fantail: Can you make it so we see Kea again?
Grandma: I never thought about making Kea visible again.
Kea: I promise to keep safe, if you change me back.
Grandma: Kea had to drink something to become invisible. Let's see if some food changes Kea back.
Fantail: What sort of food?
Grandma: Let's try a vegemite sandwich.
Kea: I love vegemite sandwiches. Mmm.
Tui: Look, look. Kea's beak's come back.
Kea: But I want everything back!
Grandma: Ok, ok. Let's think of other things to eat.
Fantail: Here's some pavlova.
Kea: Mmm, I love pavlova.
Grandma: Well, I don't suppose it will do Kea any harm.
Tui: I'm getting hungry just watching Kea eat.
Fantail: I can see Kea's feet. You look strange.
Grandma: I think you should try something healthy.
Tui: I've got some squashed kiwi fruit.
Kea: Yuck! But I want to be seen. Ok, I'll try some.
Fantail: Hey, I can see your wings now.
Grandma: What will we try next?
Kea: How about some ice-cream?
Tui: We like ice-cream too.
Grandma: Stay here and I'll see what I can do.
(Pause)
Grandma: Ok, my dears. Here's the ice-cream.
Kea, Tui & Fantail: Thanks grandma. You're the best.
Tui: Oh, look. I can see Kea's head.
Fantail: Now Kea's tummy's showing. Gee, look how big it's got!
Tui: I think you're too fat to fit in a cage now!
Kea: Grandma, they're making fun of me!
Grandma: Children, children. Visible or invisible, you need to play nicely together.

**YEAR 8: (A play for four characters.)**

Kea: Grandma, Grandma! Where are you?
Grandma: Why? What on earth is the matter?
Fantail & Tui (together): We saw some bird grabbers.
Grandma: Where?
Tui: On the other side of the forest.
Fantail: They were trying to trick Kea into going with them.
Grandma: We need to keep you safe, Kea.
Kea: How will you do that?
Fantail: Are you going to make Kea stay at home?
Tui: Fantail and I want to play with Kea.
Kea: Can't you do some magic, grandma, to keep me safe?
Grandma: Mmm.... I know, I'll make you invisible.
Kea: It will be so much fun being invisible.
Fantail: Kea better not do any tricks on us, eh Tui?
Tui: How are you going to make Kea invisible, Grandma?
Grandma: Oh, I'll mix a little bit of this and a little bit of that.
Tui: Are you going to tell us how to make it? Then we can do it too.
Grandma: Not on your life, young bird. Now Kea, drink this up.
Fantail: Look, look, you can't see Kea's tail.
Tui: Now his wings are gone - and look, his head's gone too.
Kea: I don't feel any different. Can you really not see me?
Tui: No. We really can't see you. Where are you?
Kea: Ouch, Tui, you just stood on my foot. Look where you're going!
Tui: I did but you weren't there.
Kea: Ouch. What did you do that for, Fantail?
Fantail: Do what? I was just stretching, like this.
Kea: Ouch, you hit me again.
Grandma: Be careful children. Now, off you go and play.
Tui: What shall we do?
Fantail: Let's play hopscotch.
Tui: I'll go first.
Fantail: Now it's my turn.
Kea: No it's not. It's my turn.
Fantail: How can it be your turn? We can't even see if you do it or not.
Kea: But I want a turn. Grandma!!! They won't give me a turn.
Grandma: What's the matter? Can't you play nicely together?
Fantail: But it's not fair.
Tui: Grandma, we can't play with Kea if we can't see him. Can you make Kea visible again?
Grandma: No, I don't know how to do it. I never thought about making Kea visible again.
Kea: But Grandma, this is no fun. I promise to keep safe, if you make me visible again.
Tui: If there's anything you need, we'll go and get it for you, Grandma.
Grandma: Kea had to drink something to become invisible. Let's see if some food changes Kea back.
Fantail: What sort of food do you think would help?
Grandma: Let's try a vegemite sandwich.
Kea: I love vegemite sandwiches. Mmm.
Tui: Look, look. I can see Kea's beak.
Kea: It's no use just my beak. I look really silly.
Grandma: Okay, calm down. We'll think of some other things for you to eat.
Fantail: What about pavlova? My dad made some last night and there's some left.
Kea: Mmm, I love pavlova.
Grandma: Well, I don't suppose it will do Kea any harm.
Fantail: I'm back again. Here's the pavlova.
Tui: I'm getting hungry just watching him eat.
Kea: Oh, this is yummy.
Fantail: Now I can see Kea's feet. He looks really strange.
Grandma: Don't tease. I wonder whether you should try some kiwi fruit. I'm sure that something healthy would be good.
Tui: I've got some kiwi fruit. It's a bit squashed but it should be okay.
Kea: Yuck! But I want to be visible so I'll try some.
Fantail: Hey, I can see your wings now. I thought you were strange before but you look even stranger now.
Kea: Stop making fun of me. *(sniffs)*
Grandma: What do you think we should try next?
Kea: How about some Hokey Pokey ice-cream? There's heaps of that at Kiwi's store.
Tui & Fantail (together): We like that. Can we have some too?
Grandma: Well, I suppose. You stay here and I'll go and see what I can do.
(Pause)
Grandma: Okay, my dears. Here's the ice-cream. Don't get too messy.
Kea, Tui & Fantail (together): Thanks grandma. You're the best.
Tui: Oh, look. Kea's head's visible.
Fantail: Now Kea's tummy's showing. Gee, look how big it's got!
Tui: I think you're too fat to fit in the bird grabbers' cage now!
Kea: Grandma, they're making fun of me!
Grandma: Children, children. Visible or invisible, you need to play nicely together.