



## "READING RECITAL CLINIC"

Writers are skilled at creating the most vibrant, fascinating characters and worlds on the page. Books are meant to be enjoyed, preferably in silence, for the reader to delve into their imagination and journey along a shared path with the writer. When sharing work, reading extracts or publicising at book launches, too many writers fail to consider the performance element of delivering their words to an audience.

Just as an actor has to apply many techniques when recording an audiobook – so a writer must consider the aural reception of their written words. I have seen many talented writers render their material incomprehensible with mumbling monotonous delivery, butchering phrasing and sense with erratic breathing and killing their own content with lack of characterisation and storytelling.

The “Reading Recital Clinic” is a three part workshop designed for writers to gain the understanding and confidence to deliver prose readings in an engaging and dynamic way. It takes place in an informal, playful and relaxed atmosphere in order to make any prose performable.

## Part I – “Text Treatment”

**Extract** – enticing, exciting, self-contained, self-explanatory, suspenseful

**Editing** – timing, contraction, streamlined

**Formatting** – spacing, bold, italics, underlining, phonetics

**Intro** – characters, context, setting, explanation

**Outro** – social media, full text title, publisher, purchasing

## Part II – “Text Tagging”

**Punctuation** – full stop, comma, dashes, ellipses, question mark, exclamation mark

**Speech** – characters, narrator first/third person

**Format** – bold, italics, capitals, parenthesis, numbers

**Margins** – personal emotions, audience journey, gestures

**Underlining** – emphasis, stress, key words

## Part III – “Text Tone”

**Posture** – spine, grounding, balance, stance, attitude, confidence

**Modulation** – stress, volume, pace, tempo, pitch, inflection, tone

**Projection** – breath control, diaphragm breathing, articulation, diction

**Characterisation** – differentiation, mood, narration

**Microphone** – technique, effects, relationship

