

HOW

READ FOR AN AUDIENCE

READING ALOUD – PRO TIPS

from the Twice 5 Miles guide
How to Read for an Audience
by James Navé & Allegra Huston

- Select your material according to audience, your mood, allotted time. Choose for contrast.
- DO NOT read one continuous passage if your reading is over 6 minutes.
- End on an upbeat note. Send your audience away happy.
- DO NOT read the climax or very end of the book.
- Rehearse! Explore your material. Connect to it emotionally.
- Create imaginative circumstances for the images in your work.
- Time your reading accurately. DO NOT run over your allotted time.
- Be well prepared. Have your book marked up, your outfit decided on, your bag packed, well before you leave for the venue.
- Arrive at the venue at least half an hour early and go through the Venue Checklist (downloadable from twice5miles.com).
- Your audience is your ally. They've made an effort to come and hear you. They want to love you.
- Connect with your audience. Make eye contact—or pretend to by making eye contact with three points on the wall just over people's heads.
- Take your time.
- Add impromptu remarks—and rehearse them too.
- Don't be afraid to pause if you need to reconnect with your material. When the audience sees you do this, it creates intimacy.
- Smile.
- Reading aloud with full emotional and intellectual engagement is a powerful editing tool. Use it to develop your own internal accuracy and authenticity meter.

