An introductory reading to Mark Nowak’s *Coal Mountain Elementary*

Pre-Performance Reading Directions.

Read the first 5 pages of Mark Nowak’s *Coal Mountain Elementary* aloud with your partner (you can alternate pages). *While reading,* underline words that repeat (*incremental or exact)* or words that stand out (*exciting, marked by a pause, followed by a question mark).*

Pre-Performance Brainstorm

What words seem particularly impactful? Why? What is the tone of these words? In what type of *voice* are they to be read aloud?

Performance Directions

Two volunteers will read (one volunteer for each of the passages). The rest of the class will also have a “performance role.” When we come to moments of repetition and / or impact, the whole class will read those words in the agreed upon tone.

Reflection

Doing this type of reading makes tone (read: feeling) both visible and tangible. What type of feelings is Novak attempting to document in *Coal Mountain Elementary?* How do you know?